

Fruits Basket

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Natsuki Takaya

Fruits Basket



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Fruits Basket™

Volume 4



Natsuki Takaya

STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda, and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!

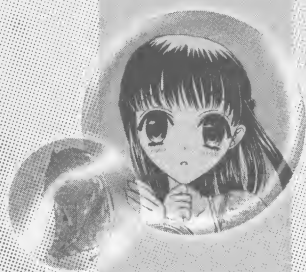


Fruits Basket™

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Fruits Basket Characters



Kagura Sohma

Stubborn and jealous as her Zodiac symbol, the Boar, Kagura is determined to marry Kyo... even if she kills him in the process.

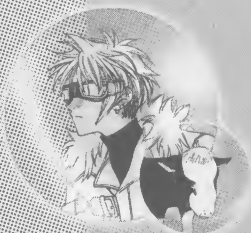
Momiji Sohma

Playful and carefree as the Rabbit he turns into, Momiji is the youngest member of the Sohma family that Tohru has met. He's half German and half Japanese, and switches casually between the two languages. His father owns the building where Tohru works.



Hatsuharu Sohma

Usually cool, calm and collected, like a cow, Haru turns into a raging bull when his "Black" personality comes out. He's a rival to Kyo and a friend to Yuki (after years of unfounded animosity). Believe it or not, Haru and Momiji are in the same grade!



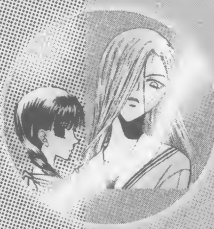
Akito Sohma

The mysterious leader of the Sohma clan, the other family members treat him with equal measures of fear and reverence. Tohru hasn't met him...yet.



Hanajima & Arisa

"A psychic freak and a yankee thug." The two best friends a girl could hope for. They always look out for Tohru; they've become friends with Yuki and Kyo as well.

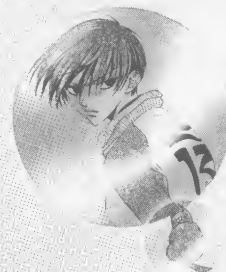
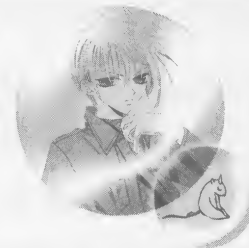


Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. Recently orphaned, Tohru has taken up residence in Shigure Sohma's house, along with Yuki and Kyo. She's the only person outside of the Sohma family who knows about their Zodiac curse.

Yuki Sohma

At school he's known as Prince Charming. Polite and soft-spoken, he's the polar opposite of Kyo. Yuki is possessed by the spirit of the Rat.



Kyo Sohma

Just as the Cat of legend (whose spirit possesses him) was left out of the Zodiac, Kyo is ostracized by the Sohma family. His greatest wish in life is to defeat Yuki in battle and win his rightful place in the Zodiac.

Shigure Sohma

The enigmatic Shigure keeps a house outside of the Sohma estate where he lives with Yuki, Kyo and Tohru. He may act perverted at times, but he has a good heart. His Zodiac spirit is the Dog.



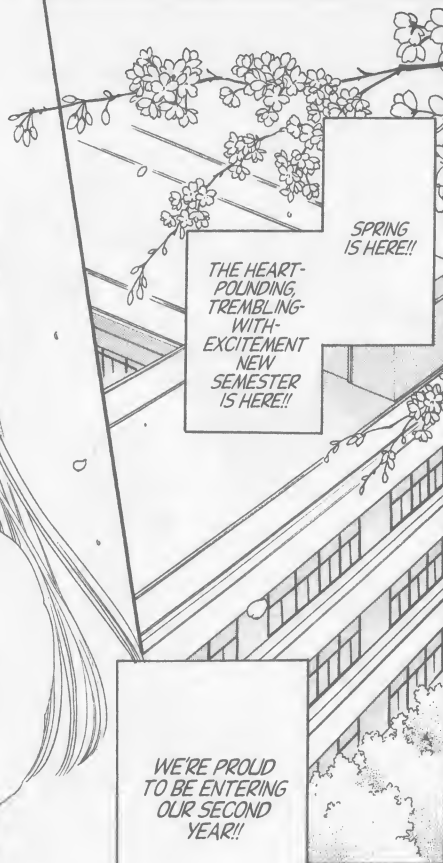
Hatori Sohma

The family doctor of the Sohma clan and one of the Juunichi (his symbol is the Dragon, which manifests as a seahorse). When Akito wills it, he erases the memories of those who stumble upon the family's secret. Hatori once had to erase the memories of the woman he loved, and ever since has been firmly against letting anyone else know the secret—even Tohru.

Fruits Basket™



Chapter 19



THE HEART-
POUNING,
TREMBLING-
WITH-
EXCITEMENT
NEW
SEMESTER
IS HERE!!

SPRING
IS HERE!!

THE
NEW FIRST
YEARS ARE
SO CUTE!

WE'RE PROUD
TO BE ENTERING
OUR SECOND
YEAR!!

ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 1

I forgot to mention it last time, but starting with volume 3, there will be character introductions and summaries at the beginning of each volume. I mean, there already are! I meant to do it earlier, but I just didn't have the time. At last, another Takaya dream is realized! (ha ha!)

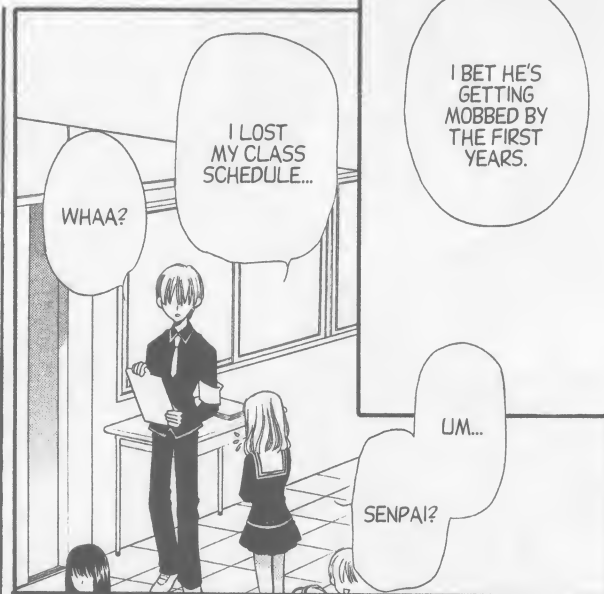
NOTE: These features were added in Vol. 2 of the English edition.

A story that's near and dear to my heart.

<p>OUCH!</p> <p>Tsk! I think people would rather look at pictures of Yuki and Kyo than read your yammerings, but I could be wrong.</p> <p>What do you think?</p> <p>I'VE BEEN CONSIDERING ANSWERING SOME OF OUR READERS' MORE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.</p>	
<p>BEFORE TOHRU WAS AROUND, THEY TOOK IT TO THE CLEANERS.</p> <p>IF SHE DIDN'T, WHO WOULD?</p> <p>What's the big deal?</p> <p>Must be nice to be rich!</p>	<p>2. Does Tohru wash the Sohmas' underwear?</p> <p>HIS FANS CUT IT INTO LITTLE PIECES AND DISTRIBUTED AMONG THEMSELVES.</p> <p>Such a waste.</p>
<p>BUT, YOU KNOW, YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT SUCH THINGS WHEN YOU'RE READING MANGA!</p> <p>TOHRU HAS THE SECOND FLOOR BATHROOM TO HERSELF.</p> <p>It never ends...</p> <p>I did accidentally draw Kyo in it once...</p>	<p>3. Did Shigure buy the maid outfit at Ayame's shop?</p> <p>GOOD QUESTION! I THINK I'LL WRITE ABOUT AYAME'S SHOP EVENTUALLY, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT TO FIND OUT MORE.</p> <p>It's not a kinky cosplay club.</p>
<p>HOW CAN YOU ASK ME THAT...?</p> <p>5. How are you going to end the series?</p>	

Fruits Basket 4
Part 1:

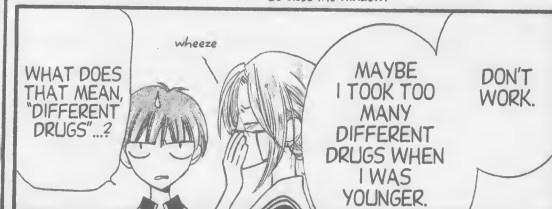
Hajimemashite!
(That's Japanese for "how do you do.") Takaya here. Furuba has made it to volume 4! As each volume is released, the big picture starts to reveal itself. Until now, I've had to keep my gloating to myself! It feels so much better to let it out! (Ha!) But "Guretschi." Guretschi the jellyfish: I keep getting letters begging, "please say he isn't over 25!" Sorry. Shigure is 27. Don't worry--a man's stock only goes up as he gets older! Oh yeah, Shigure's name is pronounced without an accent--the intonation doesn't go up or down. So now you know. Okay, as usual I'm exhausted, but Furuba is raring to go--so let's get on with it!



*The book on Kyo's desk is "Mogeta." See vol. 3.



So close the window!





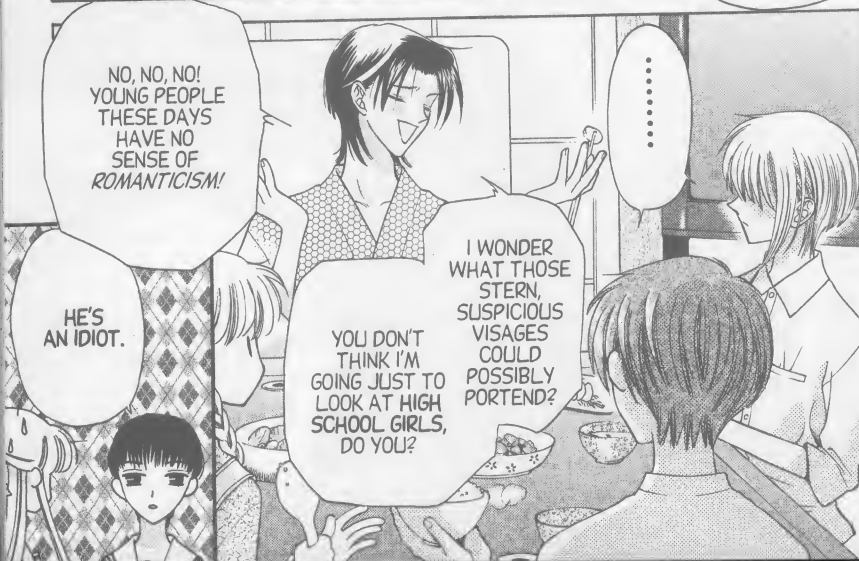
AH! YES, HE WAS HERE.

ACTUALLY, THERE ARE SOME NEW SOHMAS STARTING HERE, SO...

TOHRU-KUN, I EARLIER PICKED UP SOME WAVES THAT SEEMED TO BE COMING FROM YOUR GUARDIAN, SHIGURE-SAN...

...I JUST HAVE TO GO BY THE SCHOOL AND BEHOLD THEIR MAGNIFICENCE.

HAA-KUN AND MOMITCHI ARE LIKE LITTLE BROTHERS TO ME...



NO, NO, NO! YOUNG PEOPLE THESE DAYS HAVE NO SENSE OF ROMANTICISM!

HE'S AN IDIOT.

YOU DON'T THINK I'M GOING JUST TO LOOK AT HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS, DO YOU?

I WONDER WHAT THOSE STERN, SUSPICIOUS VISAGES COULD POSSIBLY PORTEND?



SATOMI ARIMORI, AGE 15, SCORPIO, BLOOD TYPE B, MY HOBBY IS CRAFTS, AND MY BEST FEATURE IS MY SLENDER ANKLES!!

OF COURSE I CAN!!

YOU DO NOT !!

ME! I'M-

I-I'M RINA SONOMIYA. PEOPLE SAY I LOOK LIKE NORIKA FUJIWARA*...

look at me! look at me!

CAN YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME AND WHICH CLASS YOU'RE IN?

I'M TOO FREAKED OUT TO BE JEALOUS, SOHMA...

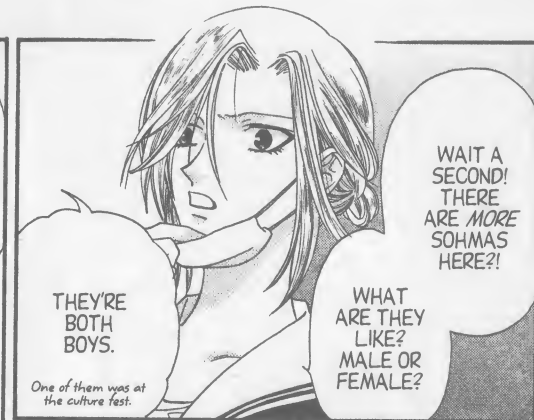
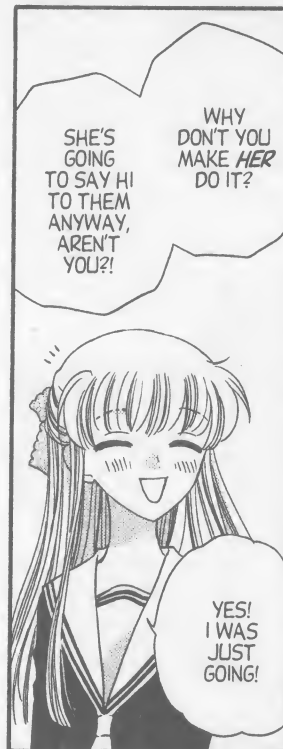
* A famous actress who starred in the GTO drama, she's also a model. Her official web site is: www.norikanesque.com



I DON'T THINK YUKI-KUN WOULD WANT THAT...

Our current leader has issues.

PRINCE CHARMING MIGHT EVEN MAKE CLASS PRESIDENT THIS YEAR.





IT'S ANNOYING WHEN GIRLS GET ALL ASSERTIVE, DON'T YOU THINK?

THEY DON'T PUT UP ANY RESISTANCE, YOU KNOW?

I guess so.

SHE DOES LOOK LIKE SHE'LL BUY ANYTHING.

MAYBE I SHOULD GO TALK TO H--

?!
!!

...



swoon

WHY IS SHE SUCH A DITZ?

SHE COULD HAVE AT LEAST ASKED WHAT CLASS THEY WERE IN.

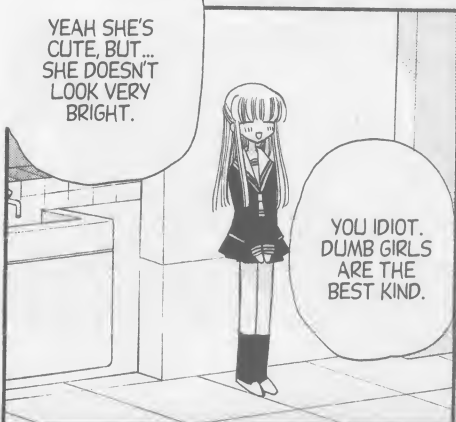
Were you planning on searching the whole school?
I'm sorry!



SHE'S CUTE, HUH?

HEY, HEY, CHECK IT OUT.

YEAH SHE'S CUTE, BUT... SHE DOESN'T LOOK VERY BRIGHT.



YOU IDIOT. DUMB GIRLS ARE THE BEST KIND.

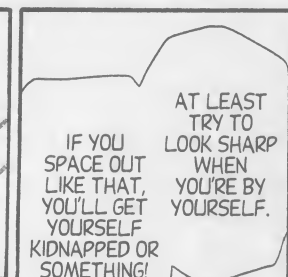
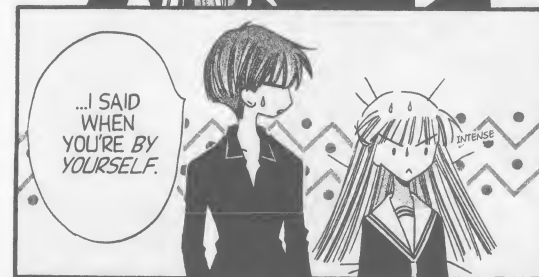
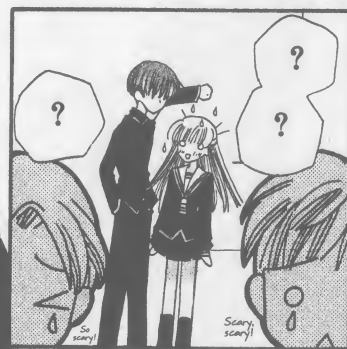


HEY, HAVE YOU SEEN A COUPLE OF GUYS, LAST NAME SOHMA? ONE'S BLOND AND THE OTHER HAS WHITE HAIR.

Y-YES, THEY'RE IN OUR CLASS...

GO GET 'EM FOR ME.

YES, SIR!!



IT'S DISGUSTING!

WHY THE HELL ARE YOU WEARING THE GIRLS' UNIFORM?! HOW STUPID CAN YOU GET?!

YOU'RE WORSE THAN HARU, AND HE'S DOWN-RIGHT LEWD!

AH...!

HATSU-HARU-SAN!

'SUP...

whimper
whimper

OH, C'MON...

I'm gonna be sick.

Yes!
IT LOOKS REALLY GOOD!!

It does, doesn't it?!

JUST BECAUSE IT LOOKS GOOD DOESN'T MEAN IT'S NOT WRONG...

IT LOOKS GOOD ON HIM.

Tohruu--



MOMIJI...

...KU--

KYO--

KYO-KUN, CALM DOWN...!

Tohru already saw Momiji at orientation.

ARE YOU RETARDED ?!

!H H H



PLAYING
IT COOL?
DRESSED
LIKE
THAT?!

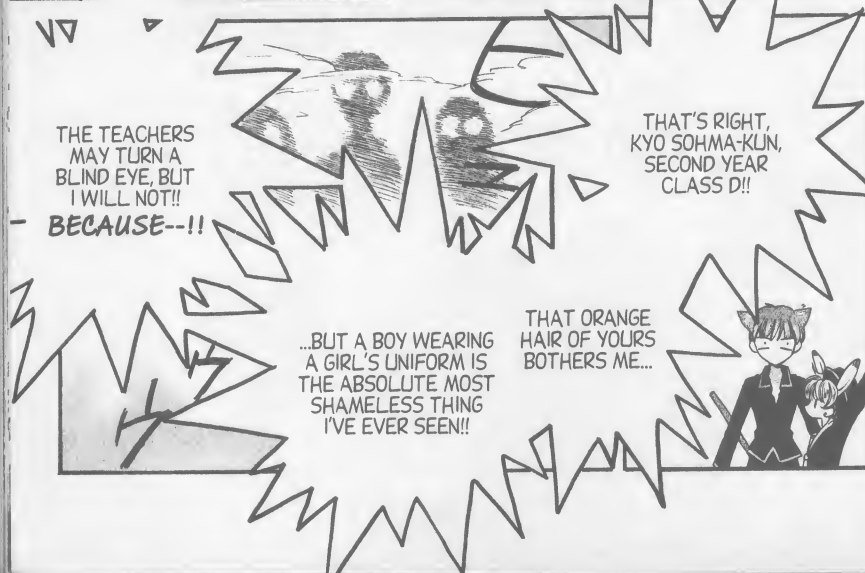
SO AT
SCHOOL, I'M
PLAYING IT
COOL!

listen,
listen!

HM...

THEY SAID
I MIGHT
BUMP INTO
A GIRL IF
I DIDN'T
SETTLE
DOWN!

I WAS
TOLD TO
"TAKE IT
EASY" AT
SCHOOL!



THE TEACHERS
MAY TURN A
BLIND EYE, BUT
I WILL NOT!!
- BECAUSE--!!

THAT'S RIGHT,
KYO SOHMA-KUN,
SECOND YEAR
CLASS D!!

...BUT A BOY WEARING
A GIRL'S UNIFORM IS
THE ABSOLUTE MOST
SHAMELESS THING
I'VE EVER SEEN!!

THAT ORANGE
HAIR OF YOURS
BOTHERS ME...



OH...

...
REALLY.

WHAT
ARE YOU
WEARING,
MOMIJI...?

You,
too.

tug

YUKI-KUN,
ARE YOU
OFF DUTY?



MOMIJI-
KUN,
HATSU-
HARU-
SAN...

WHAT DO
YOU THINK OF
OUR SCHOOL
SO FAR?

tee hee
...IF YOU THINK
SO, WHY NOT
STOP MAKING
MY LIFE MORE
DIFFICULT?

NO, NOT YET...
I STOPPED BY TO
SEE YOU ON MY
WAY TO TAKE
CARE OF SOME
THINGS.

MUST BE
HARD!



WHAT ABOUT YOUR UNIFORM?! ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT'S NATURAL, TOO, MOMIJI SOHMA-KUN?!

THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!! IT DEFIES ALL LOGIC!!

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY MANLY PRIDE?!

RIGHT NOW YOU'RE TRAVELING FULL-SPEED DOWN THE ROAD TO FAILURE!!

mooroon.

I GUESS WE CAN'T SAY IT'S BECAUSE HARU'S THE OX...



I'M NOT BEING **HARD** ON HIM, TOHRU HONDA-KUN!!

UH... HI... UM... PLEASE DON'T BE SO HARD ON HI-

I'M MERELY TAKING THE SIDE OF DECENCY AND COMMON SENSE!!

BUT...

BUT THIS ONE LOOKS BETTER ON ME...

sniff



ALSO KNOWN AS THE LEADER OF THE SCHOOL DEFENSE FORCE!!

I AM YOUR STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT, MAKOTO TAKE!!



THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, AND ALREADY ALL I SEE ARE PROBLEMS!!

WHO PAGED THE IDIOT BRIGADE?



Yuki-kun !!

YOU'RE LOOKING LOVELY! THAT ASIDE, YOU STILL SAY THAT'S HIS NATURAL COLOR...

...WHEN HIS ROOTS ARE BLACK?!

MR. PRESIDENT... THAT'S HIS NATURAL HAIR COLOR.

YOU, HATSU-HARU SOHMA-KUN! YOUR HAIR IS WHITE!

AND YOUR EXCESSIVE ACCESSORIZING IS INDECENT!!

HIS
BLACK
SIDE!!

WHO THE
HELL DO
YOU THINK
YOU ARE?

YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
GOD?!
WELL?!
DO YOU?!

DON'T CALL
ME STUPID!
I'M GOING TO
SMACK YOU,
YOU DAMN
PUNK!!

OH
YEAH?

ENOUGH!
CUT IT OUT!
YOU CAN'T
FIGHT AN
AMATEUR...

STAY OUT
OF THIS, YOU
STUPID CAT!!

THAT'S
INCREDIBLE!
SAY SOME-
THING, GOD!!

MAKE A
SOUND!!

PRESIDENT!!

PRESIDENT!!

WHA--

HARU...

WHAT?!

LET ME
ASK YOU
THIS...

IF I WEAR A
THREE-PIECE
SUIT, DOES IT
MEAN I WON'T
RESORT TO
BLACKMAIL?

IF I WON'T
PIERCE MY
EARS, DOES
IT MEAN I
WON'T BREAK
SOMEONE'S
HEART?

IF MY HAIR IS
BLACK AND
SHINY, DOES
IT MEAN I
WON'T KILL
YOU?!

SHUT
THE
HELL
UP...

...YOU
ARROGANT
SON OF A
BITCH.

YOU'RE
REALLY
PISSING ME
OFF. QUIT
ACTING LIKE
YOU'RE KING
OF THE
MOUNTAIN...

WHA-WHA-
WHAT'S WITH
YOU? THIS IS
NONSENSE!!

PEOPLE
SHOULD
WEAR
WHAT
SUITS
THEM.

HOW CAN
YOU SAY
THAT?! IT'S
SELFISHNESS!!

OH
MY...

REALLY?
WHAT IF...

...YUKI WORE
THE GIRLS'
UNIFORM?

DON'T
LET HIM
BRAINWASH
YOU!!

YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO JUST
DECIDED
IT WAS
OVER!!

(*note see chapters 13-14)

YOU RAN
AWAY
FROM
OUR LAST
FIGHT
WITH
YOUR TAIL
BETWEEN
YOUR
LEGS!!

LEAVE
HER OUT
OF IT!!

HEY
THERE.

WHAT DO
YOU THINK?
MOMIJI, FOR
EXAMPLE.
DON'T YOU
THINK HE
LOOKS GOOD
LIKE THAT?

EET!

President

WHY YOU...
ARE YOU ON
HIS SIDE?! ARE
YOU SAYING
HE'S RIGHT?!

NO! YOU'RE
BOTH CRAZY,
STUPID!!

PRESIDENT,
SNAP OUT
OF IT!

TOHRU, DO
YOU WANT A
LOLLIPOP?

He's already
bored.

HE'LL
LOOK VERY
HANDSOME.
CAN YOU
IMAGINE IT?

WOULDN'T
IT BE BETTER
FOR HIM TO
START WEARING
THE BOYS'
UNIFORM
THEN?

HE'LL
GET
BIGGER
SOON.

OH?!!
AND HOW
EXACTLY
WOULD YOU
PROVE IT?!!
I DEMAND
LEGITIMATE
EVIDENCE!!

I CAN.

BUT WITH
REGARD TO YOUR
HAIR--CAN YOU
PROVE THAT'S
YOUR NATURAL
COLOR?!

YOU'RE A
TOUGH NUT
TO CRACK,
HATSU HARU
SOHMA-KUN...

ER,
SORRY.
WHERE
WERE
WE...?

CUT IT
OUT!!

OH MY...

RELAX!
I WAS JUST
MAKING A
POINT.
DON'T BE
MAD. ♡

IF YOU
DON'T STOP
NOW, I'LL
DISOWN YOU
FOREVER...

HARU...

Seriously
angry

Gasp!

QUIT
THINKING
ABOUT IT!!

THE
MIND
REELS...



WHAT'S WRONG? WE CAN DO IT WITHOUT ACTUALLY EMBRAC--

WHY DON'T WE JUST CUT TO THE CHASE AND DO IT.

HM? DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW?

HUH?



BLACK ...

IT'S OVER NOW, HONDA-SAN. DON'T LET IT WORRY YOU...

UH... UM...

I CAN'T HANDLE IT WHEN HE TURNS BLACK...



Heh.

THE EVIDENCE IS IRREFUTEABLE.

DID HE SHOW HIM...?

HE SHOWED HIM.

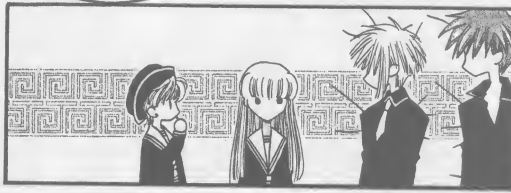
THE WORLD IS FILLED WITH THINGS I HAVE YET TO COMPREHEND...



WHAT DID HE COME HERE FOR, ANYWAY?

WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE RESTROOM TO PROVE THAT'S YOUR NATURAL COLOR?

UM...

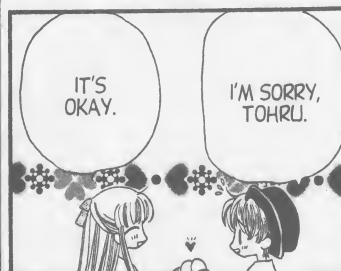
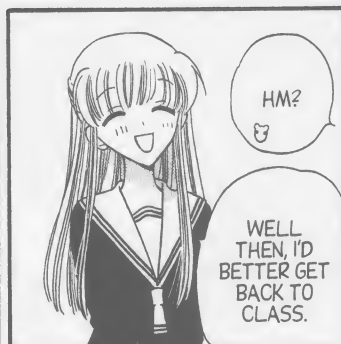


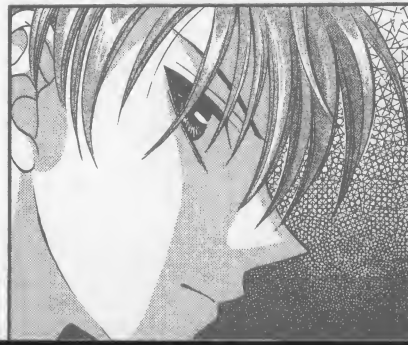
BUT!

FOR TODAY, I HAVE LOST...

...NEXT TIME, IT WON'T BE SO EASY. I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE ON ALL OF YOU!

ARE THEY DONE TALKING NOW?







Chapter 20





...HE
SUDDENLY
ANNOUNCED
THAT HE
WOULD BE
COMING, TOO.



AKITO...

...AT
ORIENTATION.
SENSEI
TOLD US.

**Sensei refers to Shigure.*

RIGHT
BEFORE
YOU GOT
HERE...



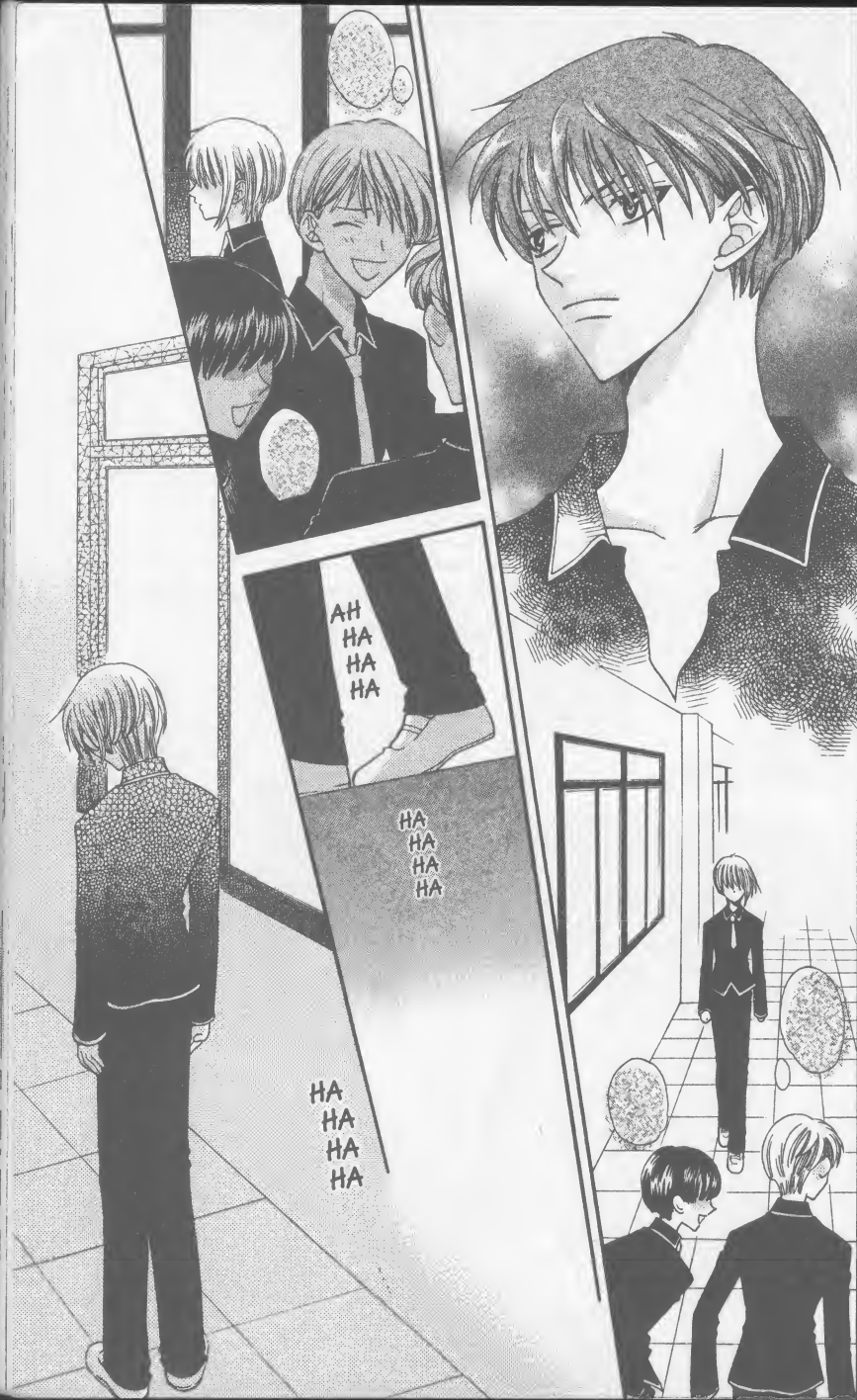
THERE WAS
SOMETHING
I WANTED...

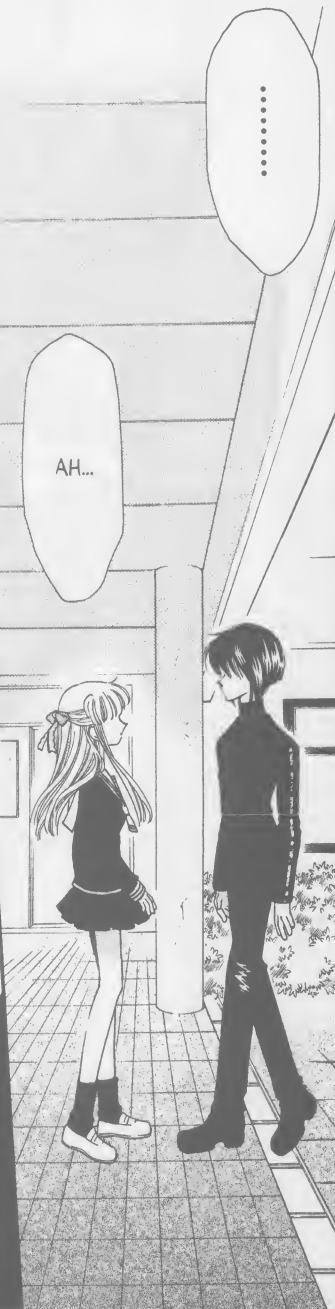
...SOMETHING
I PICTURED
WHILE IN
THAT DARK
ROOM...

WE
DIDN'T
KNOW
EITHER.

ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 2

Akkii, Akkii, poisonous Akkii... My Mabudachi Akkii!
Ha ha! (Er...sorry, inside joke.) I'm sure he slaps a cynical
smile on the faces of the people who like him and the people who
hate him. Mmm, poison. I actually meant to have him show up
in the first volume, but looking back at it now, I'm glad I didn't.
Better to draw things out...







F-FOR
SOME
REASON,
I DIDN'T
EXPECT
HIM TO BE
SO...

...GENTLE.

I WOULD
LIKE US TO
BE FRIENDS.

PLEASE
TAKE GOOD
CARE...

...OF YUKI
AND THE
OTHERS.

AKITO...

HUH...?



...WHAT A
LOVELY
YOUNG
WOMAN
YOU ARE...
AND YOU
DO SEEM
KIND.

I'M
PLEASED
TO MEET
YOU...

SUCH A
TERRIBLY
CUTE GIRL.

THANK
GOODNESS...
WELL, LET'S
START AGAIN,
SHALL WE?

I AM AKITO,
THE HEAD OF
THE SOHMA
FAMILY.
IT'S NICE TO
MEET YOU.

HUH?
NO, I'M—

RELAX, I
KNOW WHO
YOU ARE. BUT
REALLY—YOU
ARE CUTE!

AH HA
HA!

YES! IT'S
NICE TO
MEET YOU,
TOO!!

O-OH, OF
COURSE!!

I'M AFRAID
I'M QUITE
SHY... CAN
YOU FORGIVE
ME?

I APOLOGIZE
FOR NOT
GREETING YOU
PROPERLY
WHEN YOU
WERE AT THE
MAIN HOUSE.

Fruits Basket 4
Part 2:

At the end of this book, I inserted a manga advertising the CD drama. It's a special offer, so it won't be on sale to the general public. And it's past the deadline to apply! Ha ha! Thank you very much for sending so many applications. I'll say clearly that I am in love with the Furuba CD. It's such a fun CD! I can't thank the voice actors who performed in it enough. I've shed so many tears of gratitude that my eyes have just about gone dry. What I find interesting is that even while listening to the lines, I split them into panels. I wonder if this is what they call an occupational hazard. I even break things into panels when I'm watching TV!





I MAY HAVE
NO CHOICE
BUT TO PUT
YOU IN THAT
SPECIAL
ROOM JUST
FOR YOU...

...FOR A
DAY...

...TO REMIND
YOU WHO YOU
REALLY ARE.



WHY
WOULD
YOU *DO*
SOMETHING
LIKE
THAT?

WHY DID
YOU...

IT HURTS
ME DEEPLY
WHEN YOU
DO THINGS
LIKE THAT...

...AND
AFTER I'VE
BEEN SO
LENIENT
LATELY.

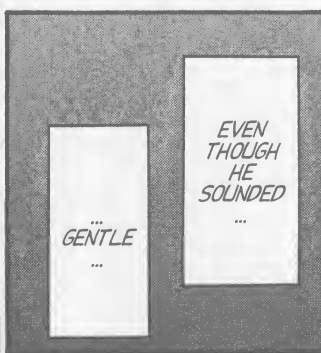
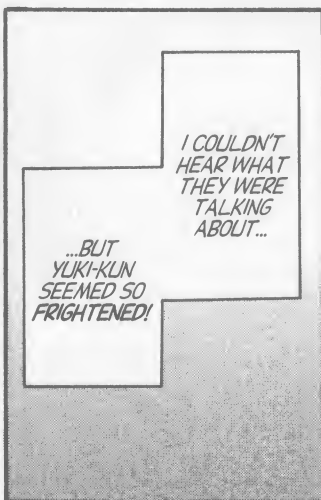
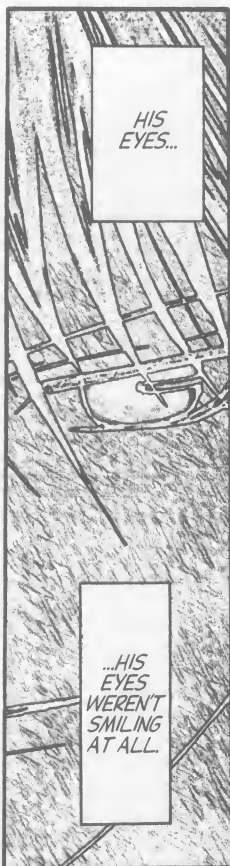
...SKIP
OUT ON
NEW
YEAR'S?

I MAY
HAVE NO
CHOICE
BUT TO
TEACH YOU
ANOTHER
LESSON.





PERHAPS HE HATED ME EVEN BEFORE I...



LET'S DO
SOMETHING
FUN!!



YUKI-
KUN!!

THE
THING I
WANT TO
UNDER-
STAND
THE MOST...

...IS WHY
AKITO-
SAN
WOULD
HATE ME!

IT'S A SPECIAL
OCCASION, SO
LET'S ALL DO
SOMETHING
TOGETHER!!

I WANT THE
FEAR OF
AKITO IN
YUKI-KUN'S
HEART...



EH...?

...SO LIO-CHAN,
HANA-CHAN
AND I DECIDED
TO HAVE
SOME FUN.

SCHOOL
GETS OUT
EARLY
TODAY...

YES?!

HONDA-
SAN...

REALLY...
DID AKITO SAY
ANYTHING...
ANYTHING
STRANGE TO
YOU?



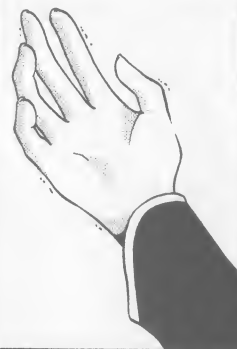
REALLY
...

N-NO. HE
DIDN'T.

HE REALLY
WAS JUST
SAYING
HELLO...

.....

BUT...





IT'S TOO EASY TO FOLLOW!

I like that. It's easy to follow.

YOU DON'T NEED RULES FOR BADMINTON.

YOU HIT IT AS HARD AS YOU CAN, BACK AND FORTH.

**Not quite true...*

MATCHES ARE SUDDEN-DEATH.

OH, SHUT UP, ALREADY.
JUST GO OVER TO YOUR TEAM'S CAMP!

Our camp?

Yay, camp!

First game is practice.



LET'S PLAY!

READY...

What was that, yankee?!

OKAY! LET'S GO, PRINCE CHARMING!!

WE'RE GONNA DESTROY ORANGEY OVER THERE!!

OH...

Okay...



...NOW!

WHY DO I HAVE TO PLAY?

I HATE BADMINTON.

...TO CLEAR AWAY.



WELL? WHAT DO WE DO AFTER WE DECIDE THE TEAMS? WHAT ARE THE RULES?

RULES? THERE AREN'T ANY.

WHAT?

WHAT ARE YOU COMPLAINING ABOUT?

I HAVE TO WEAR A MASK!!

DON'T PLAY THEN!!

I can't breathe...

...let's CHOOSE...

Rock or Paper ...



.....

...IT
LEAVES
INDELIBLE
SCARS.



BUT...

...AKITO
DOESN'T
UNDERSTAND.

"LET ME
OUT!"

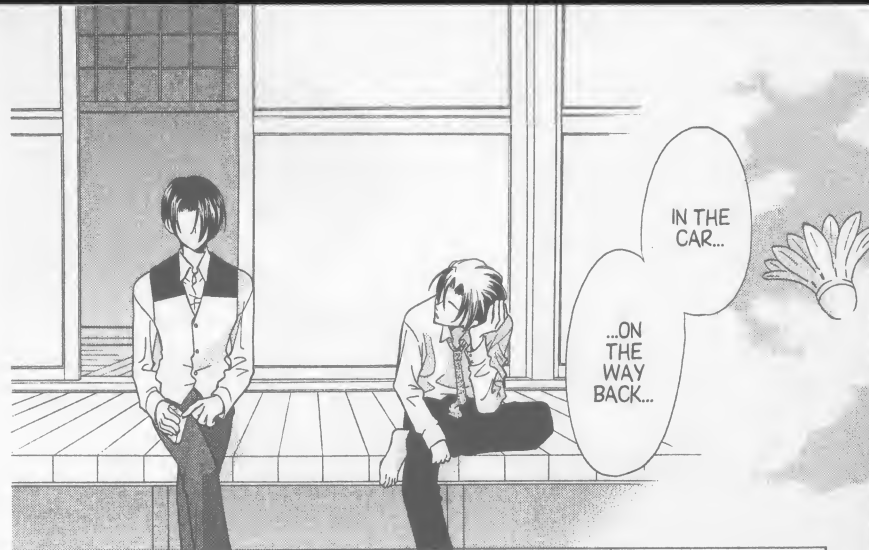


IF YOU
LOCK
SOMEONE
UP...



...AND
MENTALLY
TORTURE
THEM...

...IN A
DARK
ROOM...FOR A
LONG, LONG
TIME...



IN THE
CAR...

...ON
THE
WAY
BACK...



"...AND NONE
TOO BRIGHT.
I GUESS I CAN
RELAX."

...HE
CALLED
TOHRU-
KUN
"UGLY."

"SHE'S
REALLY
UGLY, ISN'T
SHE?"

"THE
UGLIEST..."



"THAT PROVES
HE CAN'T
FORGET ME."

"YUKI
WILL
COME
BACK TO
ME..."

"HE'S STILL
AFRAID OF
ME."

...LOVING
PARENTS...

...A HAPPY
HOME...

SOMETHING I
ENVISIONED...

...WITH
EVERYONE
SMILING
AT ME

A HOME
THAT NO ONE
WOULD EVER
WANT TO
LEAVE...

A WARM
PLACE...

THERE WAS
SOMETHING I
WANTED...

AND
ABOUT
WHAT HE
SAID--

TOHRU-KUN
IS CUTE..
SHE'S
ADORABLE.

COMING
FROM YOU,
THAT SOUNDS
CRIMINAL.

IF
SOME-
ONE CAN
CAUSE
THOSE
SCARS...

...THERE IS
SURE TO BE
SOMEONE...

...WHO
CAN HEAL
THEM.

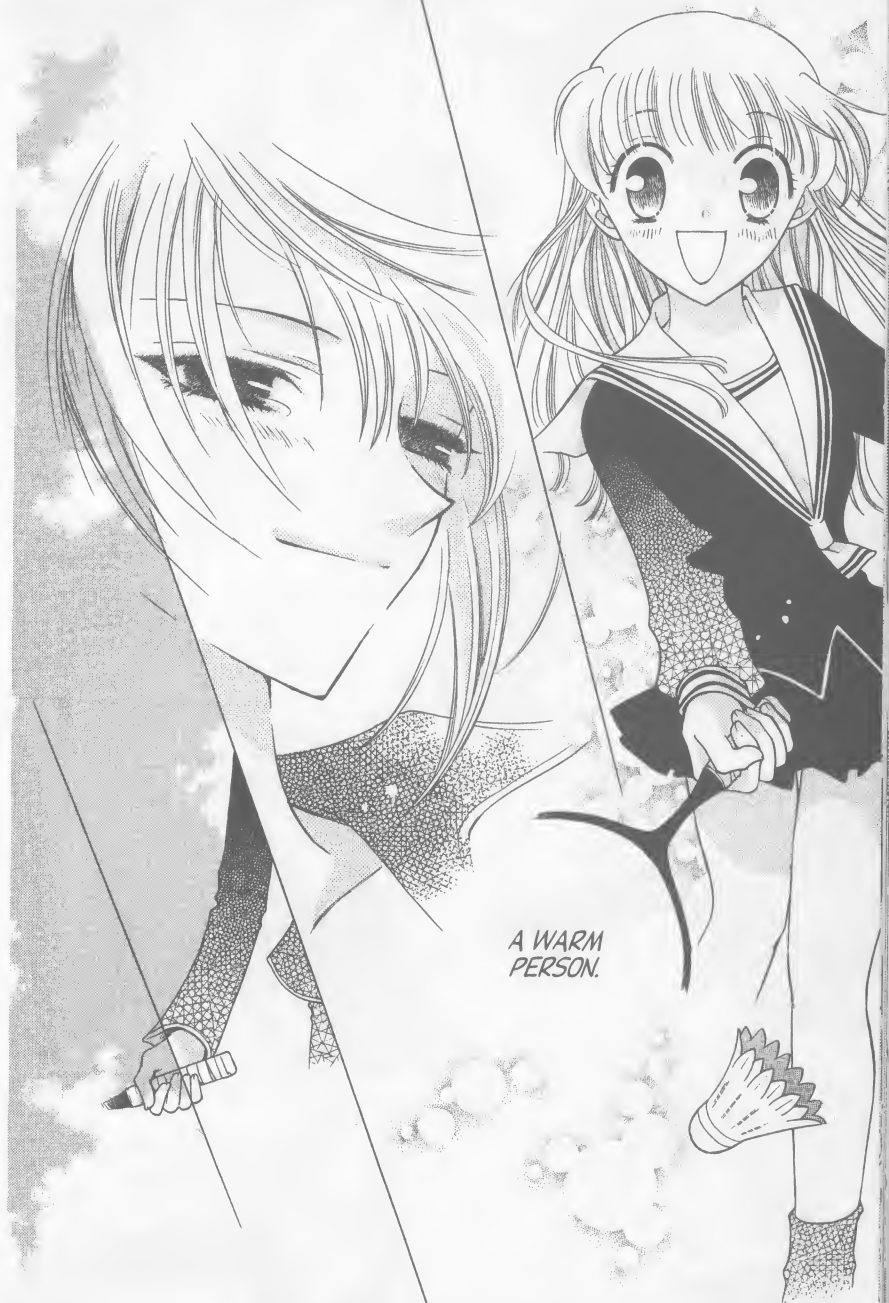
THAT FACT
GIVES ME
MORE THAN
A LITTLE
COURAGE.

IT EXISTS...

I KNOW
IT DOES.

IT'S
GETTING
DARK.

TIME
FLIES
WHEN
YOU'RE
HAVING
FUN...



A WARM
PERSON.

I WONDER IF HE'S ALSO A MEMBER OF THE CHINESE ZODIAC...?

HE'S A VERY DIFFICULT PERSON TO DESCRIBE.

TO BE HONEST, HE SCARED ME A LITTLE.

WELL...



...HEAD HOME, TOO?

...SHOULD WE...



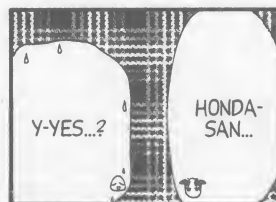
MOM...

TODAY I MET THE HEAD OF THE SOHMA FAMILY.



Y-YOU'RE... GOING HOME...?

I GUESS WE'LL BE GOING, TOO.
Our ride home is sick of waiting.



Y-YES...?

HONDA-SAN...



WH...WHY IS WAVE GIRL THE ONLY ONE...

...WHO'S NOT DYING...?!

WELL, SEE YOU TOMORROW, TOHRU-KUN...



...THANK YOU.



I WAS WORRIED...
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S OKAY.

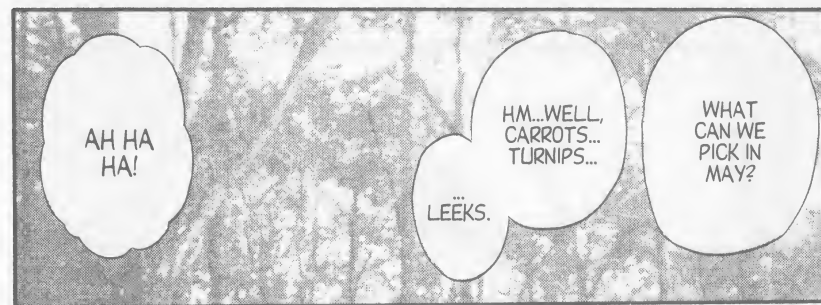


YUKI, I MEAN.



Chapter 21

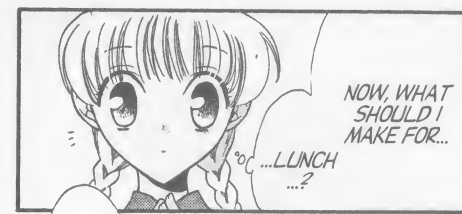




ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 3

Enter the moron...er, I mean--the older brother! He was dragged into the story pretty late, huh? He's very popular, though not as popular as the Mabudachi Trio!

Sometimes people tell me that a character of mine looks like some famous person and it kind of hurts my feelings because I work so hard to create original characters! For some reason, it doesn't bother me if people compare my characters to each other, though.



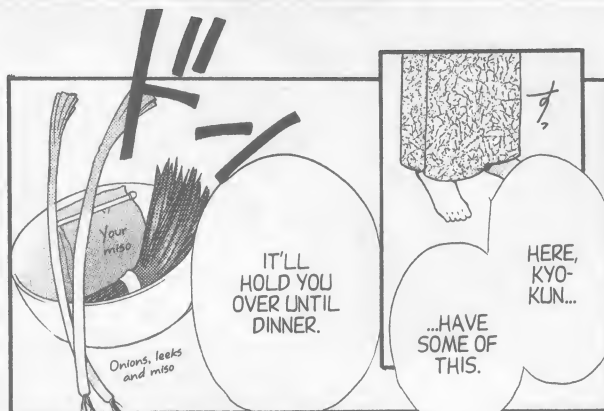
Fruits Basket 4
Part 3:

I went to my first autograph session—at the HanaYume festival. There were so many people, I got nervous! I wanted to say, "I'm not that great," you know? (I'm really not.) I even got presents. Thank you.

I thought of getting a Furuba print club, too, but the line was so long I gave up. (By the way, I've never taken a print club picture. There actually are people who haven't.) But I was very happy to have people thank me so sincerely. I really felt they meant it.

Anyway, did you enjoy the HanaYume festival? I'm very happy because I got a Hanya* plush toy! (Ha ha!)

*A character from the Hana to Yume comic, "Uchuu no Hate kara Konnichi wa"





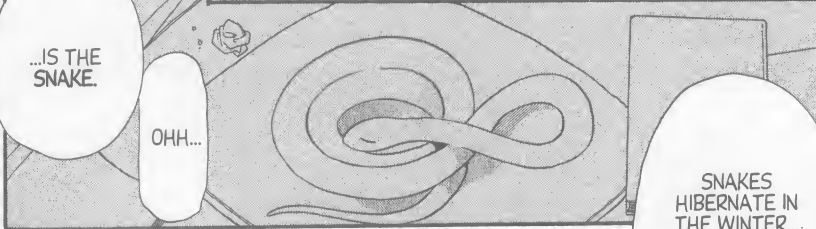
SKIN HIM...
RIGHT...
NOW.

WAIT A
MINUTE. LET'S
CALM DOWN,
YUKI-KUN.

AYAME
SOHMA,
AS YOU
CAN SEE...

...IS THE
SNAKE.

OHH...



SNAKES
HIBERNATE IN
THE WINTER...
THAT MAY BE
WHY AAYA
CAN'T HANDLE
THE COLD.



WINTER
MUST BE
TERRIBLE...

IT IS
TERRIBLE.

Let's let
him sleep
for a
while.

SOMETIMES,
WHEN IT'S
AS COLD AS
IT IS TODAY,
HE JUST
TRANSFORMS
LIKE THAT.



SKIN
HIM. NOW.
BARBECUE
THE
BASTARD!!

HUH?



EH...!

WELL IF
IT ISN'T
AAYA!



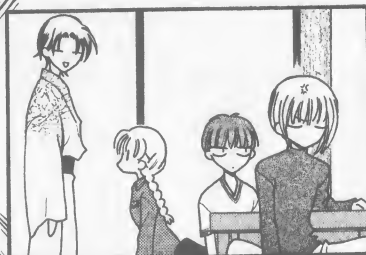
WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE?

UH... UM...



AAYA...?

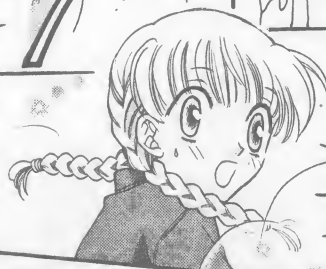
EH?!



EH?



B--



B-
BROTHER
...?!

WHEN
I SENSED
SOMEONE WITH
WARM SKIN
APPROACHING...

...CAN YOU
BLAME ME
IF MY
SURVIVAL
INSTINCTS
TOOK OVER?

...I WAS
MERELY
LOOKING FOR
WARMTH.

MY
BODY WAS
EXTREMELY
COLD
EARLIER...

PLEASE,
ALLOW ME
TO EXPLAIN
MYSELF.

REALLY...?
THAT'S
SO COOL!!

I CAN
SEE WHY
HATORI
MUST
HAVE HAD
A HARD
TIME...

WHAT
THE HELL
DOES HE
MEAN 'ONE
AND ONLY
MABUDACHI
TRIO'...?

EH?!

THE THREE
OF US MAKE
UP THE ONE
AND ONLY
MABUDACHI
TRIO.

HATORI,
AAYA AND
MYSELF
ARE ALL
ROUGHLY
THE SAME
AGE...

...SO WE WENT
THROUGH
ELEMENTARY,
MIDDLE, AND
HIGH SCHOOL
TOGETHER.

UH...

OH, COME
NOW, IT
COULDN'T
BE THAT
BAD.

...UM...

YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT
YOUR OLDER
BROTHER.

WELL?

WHAT
WERE YOU
SO UPSET
ABOUT,
YUKI-KUN?

...IT'S SO
DISGUSTING
I DON'T EVEN
WANT TO
SAY.



YOU SHOULD BE GLAD I HAVEN'T TAKEN YOU TO THE POLICE!!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SURVIVAL INSTINCTS"?!

With silver hair!

IT'S AN ADULT VERSION OF YUKI-KUN....!!



WELL, KYONKICHI ASIDE—

WHAT?

ER, UH, UM...

WHAT DID HE DO TO YOU?



I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE NEW YEAR'S.

LONG TIME NO SEE.



I TOLD YOU TO STOP CALLING ME THAT!!

OH, MY!

KYONKICHI REALLY IS HERE!



GREETINGS, EVERYONE!

HAVE YOU BEEN WELL...

...LITTLE BROTHER.



WELL,
WELL.

YOU
MUST
BE...

...THE
PRINCESS.

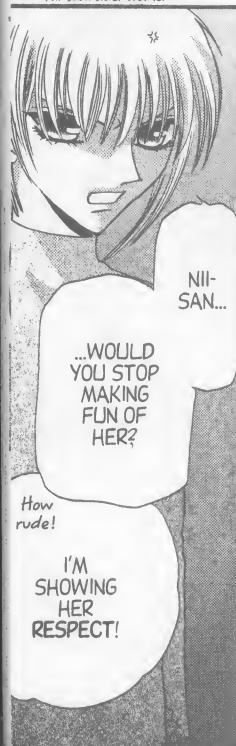


I AM YUKI'S
OWN OLDER
BROTHER,
AYAME.

PLEASE
EXCUSE MY
BEHAVIOR
EARLIER.

Y-YES!
NICE TO
MEET
YOU!

* Nii-san: older brother



NII-
SAN...

...WOULD
YOU STOP
MAKING
FUN OF
HER?

How
rude!

I'M
SHOWING
HER
RESPECT!



THE SINGLE
FLOWER THAT
BLOOMS IN
A HOUSE OF
FILTHY MEN.

...
HUH?

THE
CAPTIVE
PRINCESS!

SHE'S
HARDLY
CAPTIVE.



...AAYA?

WHY
WOULD I DO
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT...

YOU
DIDN'T
CHEAT
ON ME
WHILE
WE WERE
APART,
DID YOU...

...GURE-
SAN?



WHAT'S
ALL
RIGHT?!

ALL
RIGHT!!



YES! OF
COURSE!

YOU
CAME TO
SEE HER,
RIGHT?

THIS IS
TOHRU
HONDA-
SAN.

...AT
LEAST HIS
PERSONALITY
IS DIFFERENT
FROM YUKI-
KUN'S...

UM...
WELL
...



UH, UM,
BUT--

NO
NEED TO
WORRY...

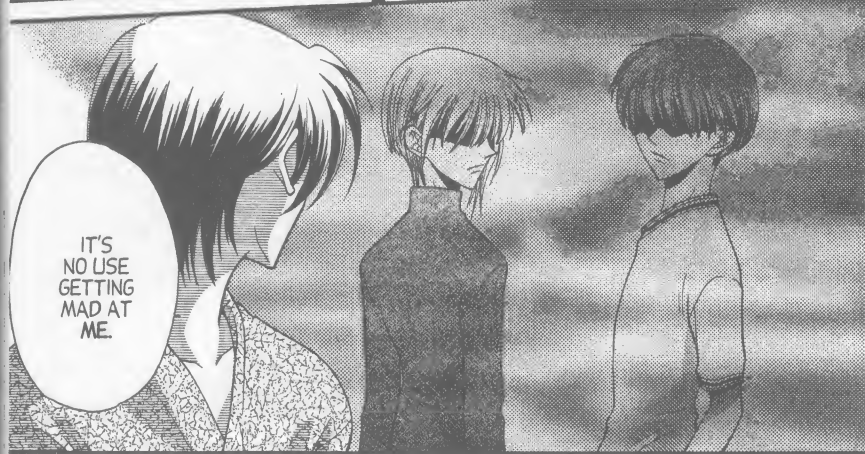
IT'S MY
TREAT.

Rattle
Rattle

Ha
ha
ha...

OH?!

LET'S
GO OUT
TO EAT!!



IT'S
NO USE
GETTING
MAD AT
ME.



THAT'S NOT
RESPECT!!

NOW--
WOULD HER
HIGHNESS
MAKE ME
SOME TEA?

AND HURRY
UP AND
HONOR
ME WITH
LUNCH!



Sigh

WHAT?
YOU'RE
SO PICKY.

OKAY.

TOHRU-
KUN...

YES?

AM I? VERY
WELL... TAKE
YOUR TIME
HONORING
ME WITH
LUNCH.

AAYA...
YOU'RE
TREATING
HER LIKE A
MAID.

THAT'S NOT
WHAT HE
MEANT!







...THAT WHEN YOU BECOME A PARENT...

...MY MOM SAID...

...YOU UNDERSTAND FOR THE FIRST TIME WHAT A PARENT FEELS.



BUT...

...MY MOM...



...WHAT YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T FORGET...

BUT...

...BUT WHAT YOU REALLY NEED TO UNDERSTAND...



...IS WHAT YOU FELT LIKE AS A CHILD.



MAYBE THAT'S WHAT THEY MEAN...

...WHEN THEY SAY...

...ADULTS ARE SELFISH.

IT MAY BE CLOSER TO REPENTANCE.

SO IT MAY BE THAT I DO WANT TO REPENT...

...AND ERASE THE IGNORANT SELF FROM MY CHILDHOOD.

YOU START TO UNDERSTAND RATHER THAN REGRET.

"WHEN THAT HAPPENED, I SHOULD HAVE SAID THIS."

...THOSE TYPES OF THINGS.

"WHEN THIS HAPPENED, I SHOULD HAVE DONE THAT."



...THINKING
THAT WAY...

...REMINDS
YOU THAT
LIFE IS
FUN.



は



...YOU SHOULD
MEET HALFWAY
FROM NOW ON!!

YUKI-KUN
AND AYAME-
SAN...

AH!

NO, THAT
IS, UM...

...WHAT I
MEANT TO
SAY WAS--

UM, I
MEAN--



IF YOU
CAN REALLY
REMEMBER HOW
YOU FELT WHEN
YOU WERE A
CHILD...

...THE
FIRST TIME
SOMEONE
GOT
REALLY
MAD AT
YOU...

THE
FIRST TIME
YOU DID A
SOMERSAULT
...

...EVEN WHEN
YOU'RE AN
ADULT OR
A PARENT,
THEN YOU CAN
UNDERSTAND
EACH OTHER.

EVEN IF
IT'S NOT
100%...

...YOU CAN
MEET EACH
OTHER HALF-
WAY...SHE
SAID.

BECAUSE...



PLEASE, CONTINUE...
...TO HONOR YUKI WITH YOUR FRIENDSHIP.

AT THAT TIME...



Yes!
WHAT DID YOU DO FOR LUNCH?

MORE IMPORTANTLY, NII-SAN DIDN'T...

...CAUSE YOU ANY TROUBLE, DID HE?

...AYAME-SAN WAS...

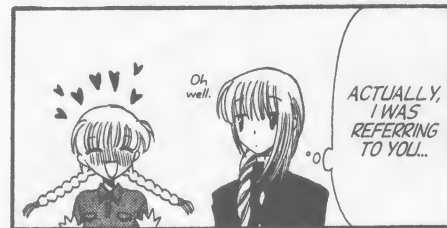
HONDA-SAN...

...ARE YOU OKAY?!



MY MOM IS THE BEST IN THE UNIVERSE!!

I WAS JUST THINKING THAT WAS A BEAUTIFUL THING TO SAY.



ACTUALLY, I WAS REFERRING TO YOU...



IT STARTS HERE FOR US, TOO.

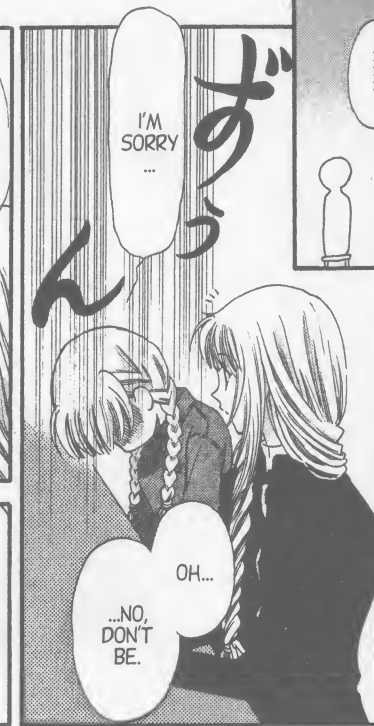
I GUESS I SHOULD TRY TO THINK...



...AS YOU DO.



I THINK I'VE FIGURED OUT WHY YUKI IS SO CHEERFUL.



I'M SORRY ...

OH...

...NO, DON'T BE.

BUT...

...NOW I SEE.



Sither

...MY
LITTLE
BROTHER!

ER...

すい...

BECAUSE
I'M A
SNAKE!

UM, THIS--

WHEN WE
LEFT THE
RESTAURANT, HE
GOT COLD AND
TRANSFORMED...

...AND IF
SNAKES GET
TOO COLD,
THEY DIE!



NOT SO
MUCH
HATE...

YUKI-KUN,
DO YOU
HATE YOUR
BROTHER?

UM...

...YUKI-
KUN?

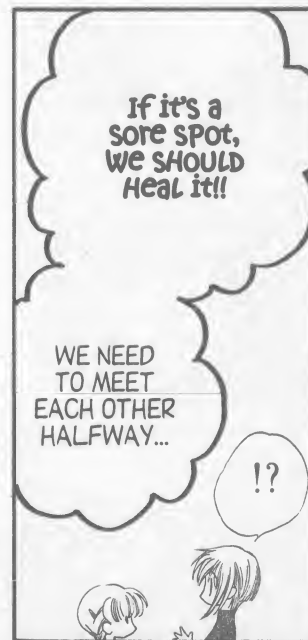


Oh!?

I SHOULD'NT
HAVE
ASKED...

...I'M
SORRY!

EH?



If it's a
sore spot,
we should
heal it!!

WE NEED
TO MEET
EACH OTHER
HALFWAY...

!?



...BECAUSE
I DON'T QUITE
UNDERSTAND
WHAT HE'S
THINKING.

IT'S
JUST
IT'S...
KIND OF A
SORE
SPOT
FOR
ME...



Chapter 22



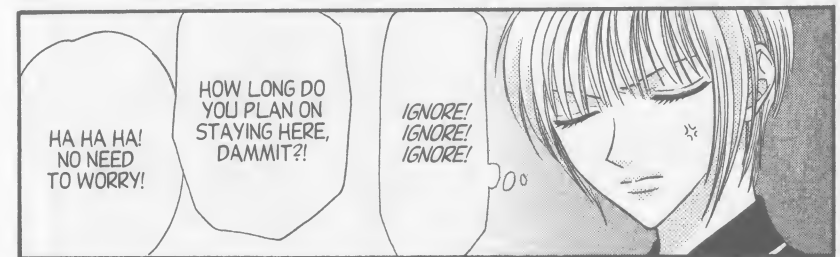
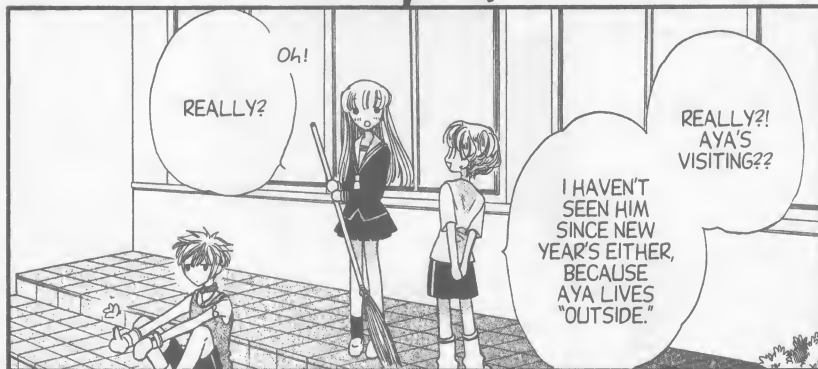


**I'LL
KILL
YOU!!**



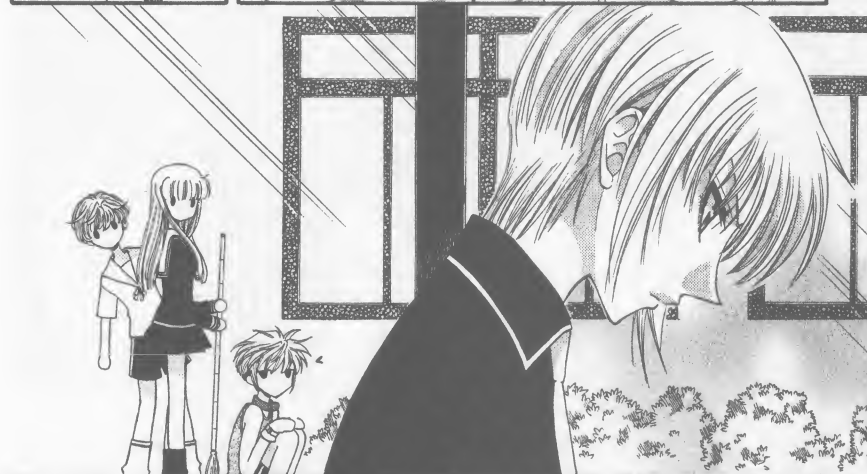
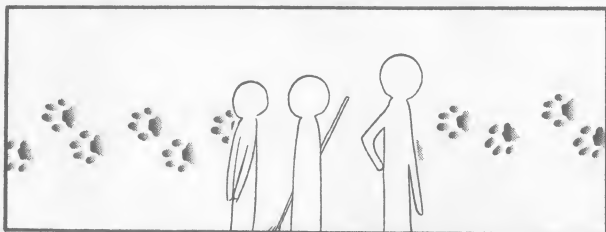
ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 4

People who like stuff like that, really like it. But I'd like it if they'd stop getting my manga involved...^-^- I'm kidding! The Mabudachi trio's years in high school are actually pretty muddled. They were still kids. They're probably the way they are now because of their "flower," but it wasn't always fun.



Fruits Basket 4
Part 4:

As usual, I'm playing video games. I play so many that I can't list them all. I'm stuck on the last boss in Persona 2....With the Megami Tensei series, I'm the type who, once stopped, takes a while to get back to it. I stopped playing Persona 1 for several months before I finally beat it. I'm also stopped in the middle of "Ore-Shika" (Ed: short for "Ore no Shikabane o Koete Yuke." Not published in the U.S.). It looks like I just can't go on. It's interesting. I wonder why I can't go on....? Actually, I bet I know why--the older I get, the harder it is for me to concentrate. It's scary. I think there are a bunch of other games I'm playing too much. This has nothing to do with it, but my handwriting is really bad.





LOOK!

TORI-SAN'S THERE, TOO.

WHAT WERE YOU LOOKING AT?

THIS?

IT'S AN ALBUM FROM WHEN WE WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL.



AND AYAME-SAN LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE YUKI-KUN...

SHIGURE-SAN AND HATORI-SAN LOOK SO YOUNG!

WOW...



AYA SAYS THAT HE SELLS ROMANCE!

HE SELLS ...

WELL ...

...I'M NOT SURE.

... DRESSES?

Out of the counsel of three comes wisdom.



OH MY...

...I AM IMPRESSED.

TO COME STRAIGHT HOME AFTER SCHOOL LIKE THAT. DID YOU MISS ME THAT MUCH?

IF YOU ASK ME, I'D RATHER BE ALONE WITH TOHRU-KUN AGAIN.

THAT'S WHY WE WERE WORRIED...



I'VE ALLOWED THAT COLOR, BUT I DON'T REMEMBER SAYING YOU COULD HAVE LONG HAIR.

THE PRINCIPAL CALLED ME OVER...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN!

IT WAS... YES... RIGHT AFTER ORIENTATION ...

HE JUST WANTS TO TALK, DOESN'T HE...?

HAVE IT CUT BY TOMORROW.

BUT PRINCIPAL ...

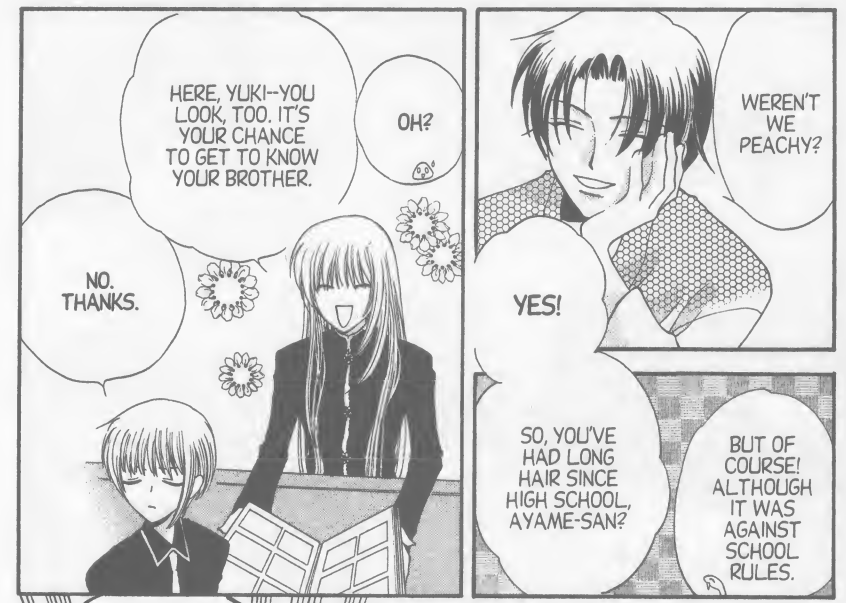


NO! RULES ARE MADE TO BE FOLLOWED.

I'LL CALL THE HEAD OF YOUR FAMILY...

I...

...I COME FROM A ROYAL FAMILY.



HERE, YUKI--YOU LOOK, TOO. IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO GET TO KNOW YOUR BROTHER.

OH?

WEREN'T WE PEACHY?

NO. THANKS.

YES!

SO, YOU'VE HAD LONG HAIR SINCE HIGH SCHOOL, AYAME-SAN?

BUT OF COURSE! ALTHOUGH IT WAS AGAINST SCHOOL RULES.



WHA--?!

I MUST EXPLAIN WHY I WAS ALLOWED TO HAVE LONG HAIR.

YOU'RE SO STUB-BORN. WELL, YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE...



THAT'S OKAY!!
YOU CAN HAVE
LONG HAIR!!!

I'M
NOT DONE
EXPLAINING
ABOUT
KANDORA-
SAMA.



YOU'RE
FROM A
ROYAL
FAMILY?!

You're--!!

HE WAS
OBVIOUSLY
LYING!

AND
SO...

...WITH THAT
EXPLANATION,
I WAS
ALLOWED
TO HAVE
LONG HAIR.



WANT TO
HEAR SOME-
THING MORE
UNBELIEVABLE?
AAYA WAS THE
STUDENT
BODY
PRESIDENT.

I CAN'T
...
BELIEVE
IT.

OH, THE
MEMORIES
...



IT WAS FROM KANDORA-SAMA,
WHO ILLUMINES THE FOUR
DIRECTIONS WITH GOLD AND RED
LIGHT. WHEN KANDORA-SAMA
CHANTED "MA RUDU MANI," HIS
FOREHEAD SHONE WITH A BLUE
LIGHT AND LIKE A PONY STRUCK
BY A WHIP, RULIBARA-SAMA'S
HONORABLE PERSON WAS LIBER-
ATED. WITH A WAVE OF WARM
COMPASSION, LIKE TREES THAT
BEND IN A LIGHT BREEZE, HIS
SUPPLE TRESSES GREW...

I'VE BEEN
HIDING IT
UNTIL NOW,
BUT THERE'S
A COUNTRY TO
WHICH I MUST
RETURN.

HUH?

WH-
WHAT?

IF YOU MUST
KNOW, MY
HAIR HAS
TO BE LONG
BECAUSE...

...IT IS SAID
THAT THE
FIRST KING, THE
HONORABLE
RULIBARA-
SAMA, RECEIVED
A MESSAGE
WHEN HE
REACHED THE
AGE OF FOUR.

...NOW, MEANWHILE,
KASHIPARLU-SAMA WAS
IN HIS CHAMBERS SLEEP-
ING PEACEFULLY, LIKE A
FLOWER WAITING TO BUD,
AND HE GAVE VOICE TO
THE PAIN THAT WAS IN HIS
HEART, "KAMPANIIRU...!"

I'M SORRY,
BUT I
HAVE TO
GO MEET
WITH SOME--

UH, ERRR,
UM, JUST--

"KAMPANIIRU!"
IN THE TONGUE
OF MY PEOPLE,
MEANS, "COME
FORTH, OCEAN
OF GOD'S POWER;
GO FORTH,
VENERATION."





HOWEVER, IF ALL SEXUAL DESIRE IS DENIED AS IF IT IS EVIL, WE CANNOT HELP BUT REGRET IT.

THEY SET FOOT IN THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT AS MINORS...NOT A LAUDABLE ACTION.

RULES ARE MADE TO BE FOLLOWED, IT'S SAID. IF THEY ARE NOT, ORDER IS LOST.



THEREFORE, HERE AND NOW, I MAKE A PROPOSAL:

TO THE UNDER-AGED YOUTHS WHO CARRY THESE CARNAL DESIRES... TO THOSE WHO HAVE NO PLACE WITHIN OUR VAGUE RULES...

...LET US EXTEND THE HAND OF SALVATION!!



AYAME-KUN...!

YOU'RE UNUSUALLY SERIOUS TODAY!

Oohh...

SO HE WAS JUST PLAYING DUMB ALL THIS TIME...



BECAUSE HUMANS BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MULTIPLYING AND REPLENISHING THE EARTH.

I BELIEVE THAT SEXUAL DESIRE IS IN PART A DESIRE TO FULFILL THAT OBLIGATION.

IS THAT SOMETHING TO BE ASHAMED OF? IS IT A SIN?

PRESIDENT...



...DID HE JUST SAY WHAT I THINK HE SAID...?

JUST NOW...

TELL ME ABOUT IT! AH... I SUPPOSE THOSE STUDENTS' LUCK HAD RUN OUT, BECAUSE THE TEACHERS FOUND OUT.



NO, WE'D LONG SINCE GROWN TIRED OF THAT.

NOT THAT WE WENT WITH THEM ...



...INVOLVING THE STUDENTS, THEIR GUARDIANS, THE PRINCIPAL, AND THE TEACHERS.

OF COURSE, AS THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT, I SPOKE UP IN THEIR DEFENSE.

THERE WAS A LARGE CONFERENCE...

AND THEY ALMOST WENT SO FAR AS TO EXPEL THEM.



IF IT'S
COMES
DOWN TO
"ATTACK" OR
"ACCEPT"...

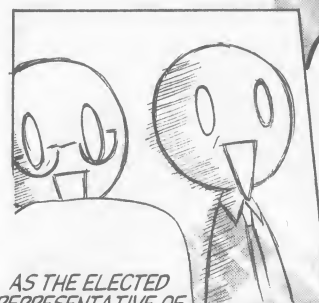
...I CHOOSE
TO "ACCEPT"!!

YOU
IDIOT!!!

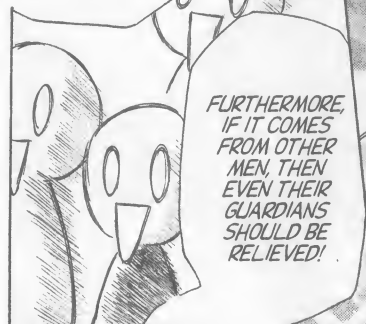
NO NEED TO
WORRY, HATORI!!
I MAY APPEAR
FRAGILE, BUT
I'M IN CONTROL!

HE REALLY
WAS AN
IDIOT!!

SUCH AN
IDIOT!!



AS THE ELECTED
REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE STUDENT BODY,
IT IS ONLY A MATTER
OF COURSE THAT
I SHOULD SHOULD
ALL THEIR CARNAL
DESIRES.



FURTHERMORE,
IF IT COMES
FROM OTHER
MEN, THEN
EVEN THEIR
GUARDIANS
SHOULD BE
RELIEVED!



NOW,
PLEASE...
LUST
AFTER
ME!

OF
COURSE
WE
WILL!

...DIRECT
YOUR
PASSIONS
AT ME!!

FROM
NOW
ON...



THE
RIFT...

...THE
RIFT...!!

GET
OUT.



THE
ONLY
PERSON
HE'LL
LISTEN
TO IS--

WELL...HE
GENERALLY
DOESN'T
LISTEN TO
ME, EITHER.

HEY.



DO SOME-
THING
ABOUT
HIM!!

EH? WHY?
WE'RE
HAVING
SO MUCH
FUN!

THAT'S
RIGHT.
WE'RE
HAVING
FUN.

WE'RE ALL
SUFFERING!!



IN THAT
CASE, SHALL
I TELL ABOUT
THE INCIDENT
WITH THE
CHAIRMAN OF
THE BOARD'S
STATUE?

HM.
YOU
STILL
DON'T
LIKE
ME?

DON'T
BOTHER.
JUST
LEAVE.



GET
OUT!

IT WAS A
BEAUTIFUL
SUMMER
DAY...



THANKS TO
THAT INCIDENT,
EVERYONE WAS
SAVED FROM
EXPULSION.

How
rude!

HOW?!

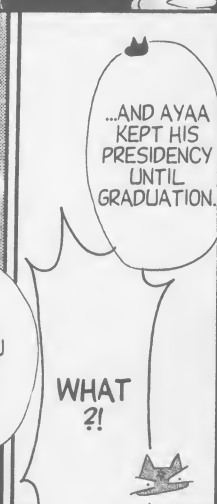
BECAUSE
AFTERWARD,
HAA-SAN
STEPPED IN
AND BAILED
EVERYONE
OUT.



HAVE
YOU COME TO
UNDERSTAND A
LITTLE MORE
ABOUT YOUR
BROTHER?!



WHAT
DO YOU
THINK,
YUKI?



...AND AYAA
KEPT HIS
PRESIDENCY
UNTIL
GRADUATION.

WHAT
?!

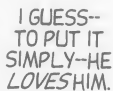


WHAT AN
IDIOTIC
STORY!!

...SO GOES MY
WONDERFUL
STORY.

AND...





ONCE, A
LONG TIME
AGO, HE
TALKED
SERIOUSLY
TO ME
ABOUT IT.

HAA-SAN...

...HAS
SOMETHING
THAT AAYA
ADMIRE.

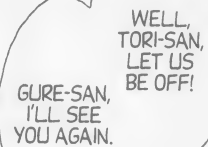
HE
LOOKS
UP TO
HIM...AND
ADORES
HIM



Well,
yeah,
that too.

SO...

...HATORI
BECAME
HIS *BABY-
SITTER?*



I'LL COME
VISIT YOU.



FAREWELL,
MY FRIENDS!!



HE
LOOKS
UP TO
HIM.

I
WONDER
WHY?

WHAT

...THE
HELL...?

AAYA HAS
ONLY EVER
LISTENED
TO HAA-SAN.

HOW IS IT
THAT HE...

...ALWAYS
SAYS WHAT
I WANT HIM
TO SAY?

Heh
heh.

SHE
SPENDS
ALL HER
ENERGY
HELPING
OTHER
PEOPLE.

HOW...

I REALLY
CAN'T
COMPETE
WITH YOU...

...TORI-
SAN...

I'M
REALLY...

...BAD...

...AT THAT
SORT OF
THING.



YUKI'S
NOT
STUPID.

HE'S
JUST...



HE'S
STILL A
CHILD.

THERE ARE
STILL A
LOT OF
THINGS...

...HE CAN'T
GIVE UP.



THERE'S
NO RUSH.



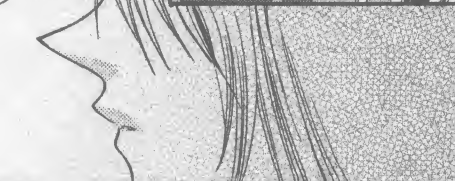
...
RESEMBLES
YOU A
LITTLE.

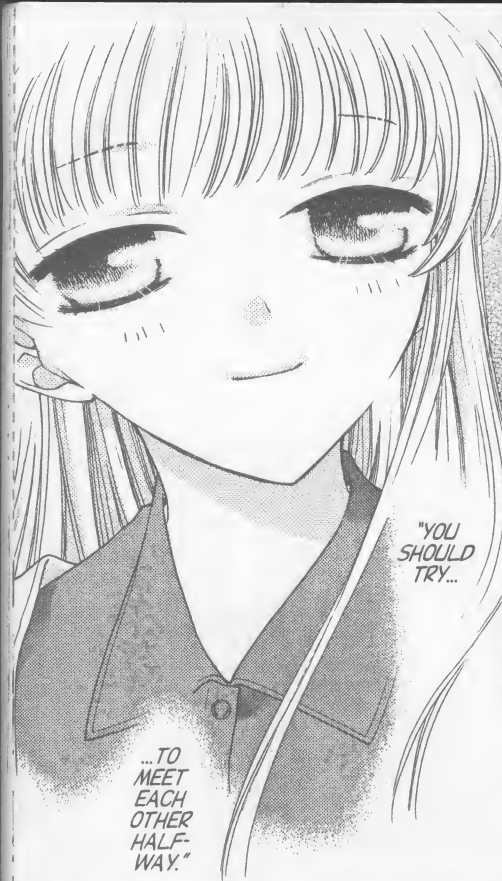
TOHRU-
KUN...

THEN
PERHAPS
YOU SHOULD
CONSIDER
YOUR ACTIONS
NEXT TIME...

OH, BUT
I DO!

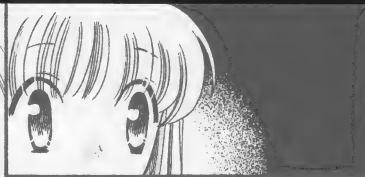
I JUST
CAN'T SEEM
TO GET YUKI
TO OPEN
UP.





"YOU SHOULD TRY..."

...TO MEET EACH OTHER HALF-WAY."



What? What?



HARU.

UM...

HEY.

Didn't bring anything.



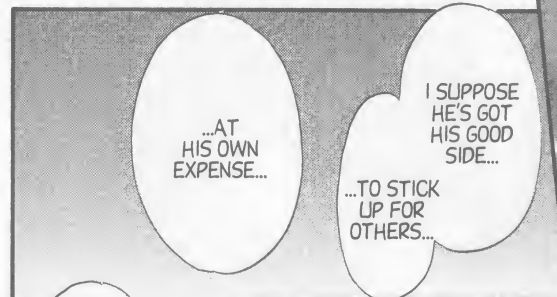
BUT--

...BUT, AYAME-SAN...

UHH, UM...

The rift the rift the rift

OH!



...AT HIS OWN EXPENSE...

I SUPPOSE HE'S GOT HIS GOOD SIDE...

...TO STICK UP FOR OTHERS...

BUT AYAME-SAN'S STORIES ARE VERY FUNNY!

"THERE'S NO RUSH."

HE'S HOPELESS.



I GUESS...

THAT'S PRETTY ...

...COOL...



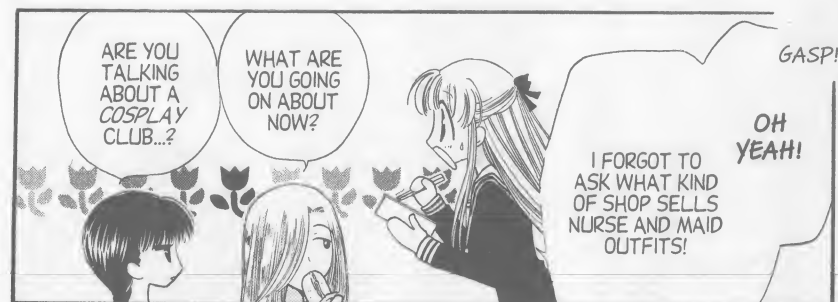
カシカシ



Chapter 23



"THINKING THAT WAY IS MORE FUN."





ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 5

They don't match at all! The chapter title page and the actual contents!! (I have no one to blame but myself.) Whether for good or ill, my mother is a big part of my life, so I can't think of Tohru or Momitchi as strangers. Well, they're not strangers! Each character that I create is an extension of myself. They're closer to me than if they were my children.

THANK YOU!



Harada-sama, Araki-sama, mother, editor-sama ...and everyone who reads Furuba and supports me!

This has been Natsuki Takaya.

Next is Kagura, a flower. After that will be Momitchi, then Hatori--in the order they appeared in the series (that way, you clearly know their names and faces). I'll keep going through the members of the Zodiac one after another. Of course, even if I haven't gotten to them all, when it's time for Furuba to end, it will end. This is an unpleasant topic, but it can't be avoided.



Fruits Basket 4
Part 5:

Marlow, from the RPG Kaeru Bibak, is adorable. I haven't seen the ending yet, but I'm really happy that the main character is female. In real life, I don't think I'd get along with Marlow, though. I mean, I think I'm the type of person Marlow hates! I always like the characters that wouldn't like me. Lately, I've been playing Chrono Cross. I wasn't interested before, but I saw the commercial in the game store and I thought, "I have to play it!!" I was caught in their trap. Completely! (ha ha!)



I'LL BE OUT RUNNING ERRANDS THAT DAY MYSELF.

OF COURSE IT'S ALL RIGHT.

...IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I GO OUT THAT AFTERNOON?

ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH YOUR GIRL-FRIENDS?

YES!



IT'S THE ANNIVERSARY OF MY MOM'S DEATH, SO WE'RE GOING TO VISIT HER GRAVE.



SHIGURE-SAN...

...IT'S ABOUT MAY 1ST...



REALLY?

SO PRINCE CHARMING'S COMING ALONG? WHAT ABOUT KYON?

OH... I DON'T KNOW. HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING...



THANK YOU...

...THANK YOU SO MUCH!

MOM WILL BE SO HAPPY!

KYO-KUN...



IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS, YOU SHOULD GO, TOO.



I'M SORRY I CAN'T BE THERE.

EH?!

NO, NO! PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...

I WONDER...

OH...

THIS IS THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HER DEATH, ISN'T IT?

YES-- WE'RE NOT PLANNING ANYTHING SPECIAL, THOUGH.



...YOUR MOTHER.

I'D LIKE...

...TO MEET HER...

...COULD I COME ALONG?

EH?

HUH?!

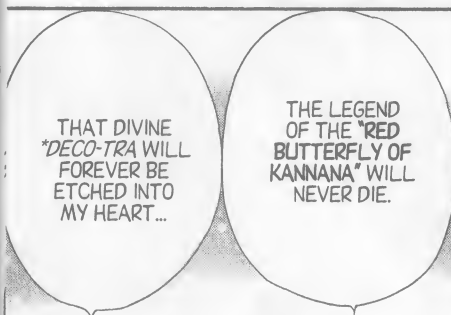
B-but...



BUT, WELL, THAT'S JUST HOW GREAT KYOKO-SAN WAS.

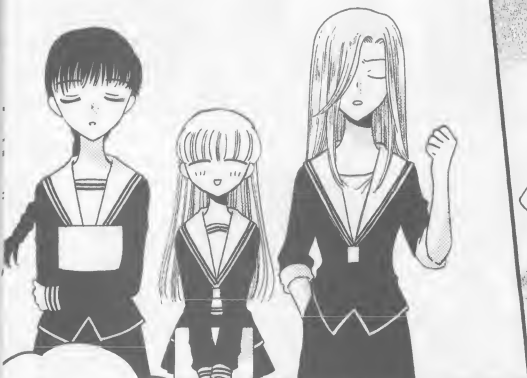
SORRY.

GOT KIND OF SERIOUS THERE.



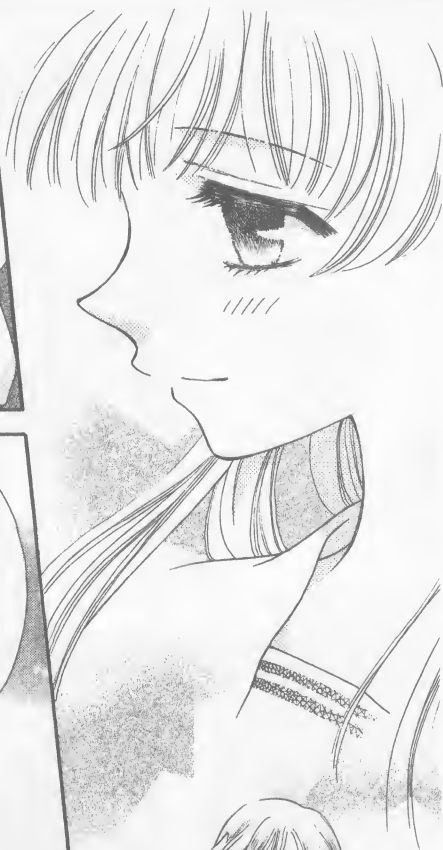
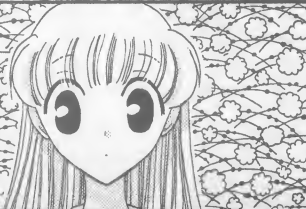
THAT DIVINE "DECO-TRA" WILL FOREVER BE ETCHED INTO MY HEART...

THE LEGEND OF THE "RED BUTTERFLY OF KANNANA" WILL NEVER DIE.



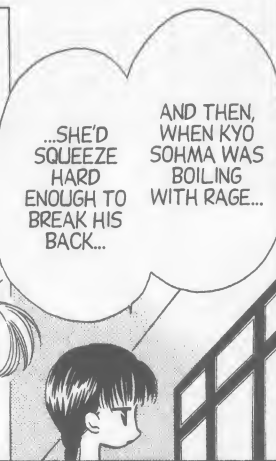
*Deco-tra = the inscription on Kyoko's coat-- see the pic of Uo-chan on page 143 of vol. 1 for an example.

TOHRU!



THAT WOULD BE TERRIBLE!!

...In so many ways!



...SHE'D SQUEEZE HARD ENOUGH TO BREAK HIS BACK...

AND THEN, WHEN KYO SOHMA WAS BOILING WITH RAGE...



SHE'D TEASE HIM LIKE CRAZY.

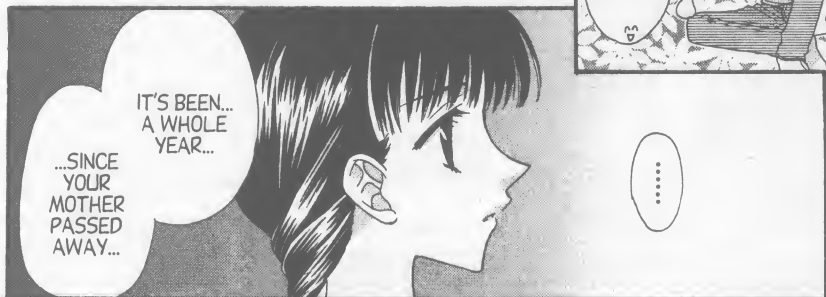
I BET KYOKO-SAN WOULD LIKE KYON.

Like this?

AH Ha Ha!

Orange, orange!

I'm going to eat you!



IT'S BEEN... A WHOLE YEAR...

...SINCE YOUR MOTHER PASSED AWAY...

...



...SMILING LIKE SHE ALWAYS DID...

...I STILL FEEL LIKE SHE'LL SHOW UP ANY MINUTE...

YEAH, BUT, YOU KNOW ...

Heh.



...I HAVEN'T
HEARD MUCH
ABOUT ANY OF
THE SOHMA
PARENTS.

ACTUALLY



"I NEVER
EVEN
LAUGHED
LIKE THIS
IN FRONT
OF MY
PARENTS."



OH HEY,
THAT
KID--

WHICH OF
HIS PARENTS
IS GERMAN?

HUH...NOW
THAT YOU
MENTION IT...



I'M SURE
SHE SCOLDED
HERSELF
EVERY TIME
SHE WAS
ABOUT TO GET
DEPRESSED.

SHE'S BEEN
ABLE TO KEEP
SMILING FOR A
WHOLE YEAR.

TOHRU-
KUN...

...HAS
TRIED
REALLY
HARD.



WE'RE
PLAYING
COPS AND
ROBBERS
RIGHT NOW!

I'M THE
ROBBER!

WHA--?!

MOMIJI-
KUN?!

Hide me,
hide me!

YOU'RE WORKING
TODAY, RIGHT,
TOHRU? SEE
YOU LATER!

FREEZE,
CRIMINAL!
YOU CAN'T
HIDE FROM
ME!

Momiji!



THAT'S
GOOD FOR
A GROWING
BOY.

...HE
CERTAINLY
IS...ENER-
GETIC.

Hey,
guys, I
found
Momiji!

Deaaaaa...



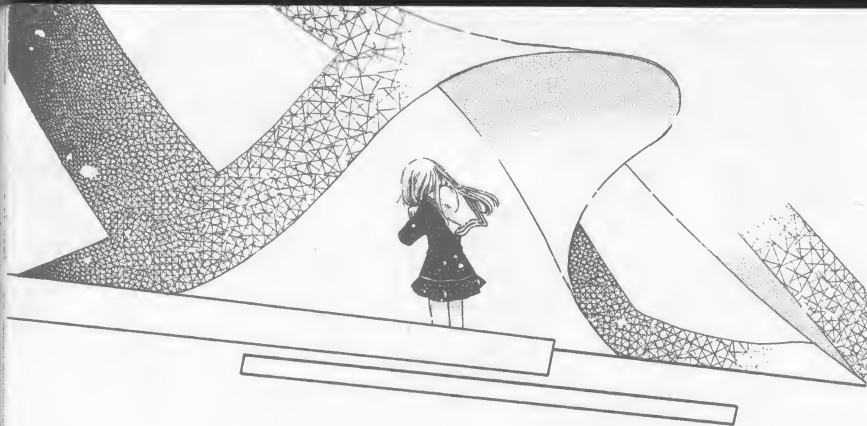
THEY
FOUND
ME!!

(later)
Tschüß!

W-WATCH
WHERE
YOU'RE
GOING...

UH...

Kya
ha
ha!



KYO COULD
COME GET YOU
SOMETIMES,
TOO.

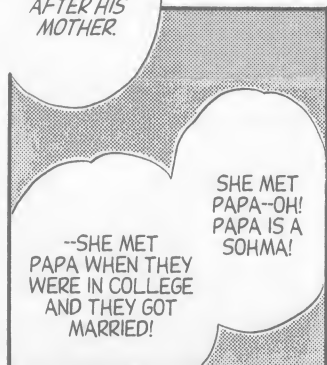
YES!





SHE
REALLY IS
PRETTY...

MOMIJI-
KUN TAKES
AFTER HIS
MOTHER.



SHE MET
PAPA-OH!
PAPA IS A
SOHMA!

--SHE MET
PAPA WHEN THEY
WERE IN COLLEGE
AND THEY GOT
MARRIED!



Hee
hee
hee!

SH-SHE'S
BEAUTIFUL!!

SH-



AND! AND!
I HAVE A
LITTLE
SISTER!

HER
NAME'S
MOMO!

MOMO
LOOKS
JUST LIKE
MAMA!



キヤキヤ

PAPA WAS
LUCKY TO
GET SUCH
A PRETTY
GIRL!

y-
YEAH...



Mutti!!



WHICH ONE
OF YOUR
PARENTS IS
GERMAN?

OH
YEAH...

MOMIJI-
KUN?

(What?)
was?

*Sign: sort your trash



MOO
TEA...?

H-he said it
before. What
was it...?

That
means
my mom!



OH! YOUR
MOTHER!

Ta-daaaaah!

I HAVE A
PICTURE!

MAMA AND MOMO USUALLY COME TO PICK UP PAPA FROM WORK.

THAT SOUNDS NICE...

AH! IT MIGHT BE TIME!

SO YOU'LL ALL GO HOME TOGETHER, RIGHT?




HUH...?

MOMIJI-CHAN?

YEAH! I WISH!

BUT MAMA DOESN'T...
...KNOW ABOUT ME.



Ja!

SHE'S IN THE SECOND GRADE RIGHT NOW.

AH! BUT MOMO ISN'T A MEMBER OF THE ZODIAC.

YOU HAVE A SISTER, MOMIJI-KUN?!



CUTE!

SHE'S SOOOO--

AND! AND! SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE MAMA!

SHE'S SOOOO SPOILED!

SHE FOLLOWS MAMA AROUND LIKE A BABY CHICK.

BUT SHE DOESN'T SPEAK MUCH JAPANESE.

SHE HAS A LOT OF TROUBLE WITH IT.





....!

SPEAK OF
THE DEVIL....
AS THEY
SAY!!

SO THIS
GIRL IS
MOMO-
SAN?!

REALLY,
MOMIJI-KUN
LOOKS MORE
LIKE HIS
MOTHER...

Heh
MY FRIEND
WORKS HERE
PART-TIME...

...SO I CAME
TO PLAY
WITH HER!

"MAMA
DOESN'T
KNOW
ABOUT
ME."

BUT THIS
ISN'T A PLAY-
GROUND.

I KNOW!
I'M
SORRY.

BE-
SIDES
...



IS THAT
YOU,
MOMIJI-
CHAN?

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING...

...IN A PLACE
LIKE THIS
SO LATE AT
NIGHT?



MOMIJI-KUN...



(Bad luck!)
Ungluck!!

SHE
SAW
ME!

I'LL
HAVE TO
APOLOGIZE
TO PAPA
LATER!



SHE
FORGOT.

YEAH...

MAMA
DOESN'T
KNOW
ABOUT
ME.

HER
MEMORIES
WERE...
SUPPRESSED.



...I'M ONE OF
THE SOHMA
CHILDREN.

MAMA
THINKS
THAT...



IF YOU
STAY
OUT TOO
LATE...

...WON'T YOUR
MOTHER
WORRY?



OH? DON'T
TAKE ANY
SHORTCUTS.

IT'S OKAY.
I'M GOING
NOW!

THANK
YOU FOR
CLEANING.

OKAY,
MOMO,
LET'S GO.

PAPA MUST
BE TIRED OF
WAITING.

OH...

YE...

S...



SHE
REJECTED
ME WITH
HER WHOLE
BODY.

SHE
WOULDN'T
LOOK AT
ME.

SHE WAS
ALWAYS
IRRITATED...

...ALWAYS
HYSTERICAL...

THE MOTHERS
OF CHILDREN
POSSESSED
BY VENGEFUL
SPIRITS...

...EITHER
BECOME
EXTREMELY
OVER-
PROTECTIVE
OF THEM...

...OR
REJECT
THEM
ENTIRELY.

MY MAMA
REJECTED
ME.

THINKING
ABOUT IT
NOW...

...I CAN
TELL
SHE WAS
BROKEN.

JUST LIKE
KANA.

MOMIJI...

...AND THEN
HAVE IT TURN
INTO A STRANGE
BABY ANIMAL...

TO MEET
YOUR
TRUE
LOVE...

...THEN
MARRY
YOUR TRUE
LOVE...

...AND
HAVE A
BABY WITH
YOUR TRUE
LOVE...

...AND
HOLD
THAT
BABY...

WHAT
DESPAIR...

...A MOTHER
WOULD FEEL.



CHILDREN
WHO ARE
CURSED BY
VENGEFUL
SPIRITS...

...ARE
BORN TWO
MONTHS
EARLIER
THAN
NORMAL.



AND SO...

...I DIS-
APPEARED
FROM
MAMA'S
MEMORIES.

MAMA
EVENTUALLY
GOT BETTER.

IN TWO
MONTHS,
SHE COULD
SMILE
AGAIN.

...IS THAT THAT
CREATURE CAME
OUT OF MY BODY.

THE GREATEST
REGRET I HAVE
IN THIS LIFE...



ARE
YOU
REALLY
...

...ARE YOU
REALLY
OKAY WITH
FORGETTING?

YOU WON'T...
REGRET IT?



...THEY SAY
THAT IF SHE
FORGETS
ABOUT YOU,
SHE MIGHT
GET BETTER.

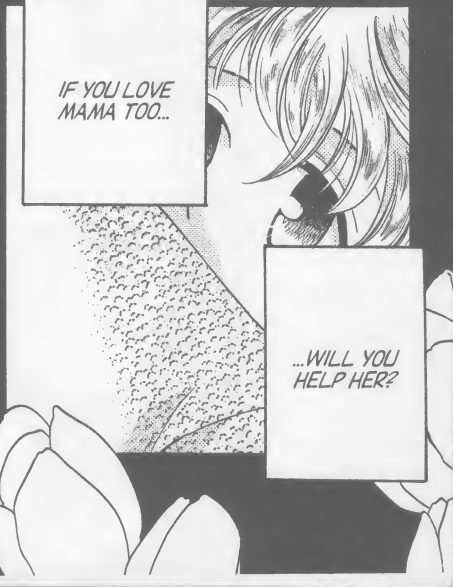
BUT...

YOUR
MAMA'S
CASE SEEMS
HOPELESS
NOW.



BUT PAPA
WILL LOVE
YOU MORE
THAN
ENOUGH FOR
BOTH US.

I IMAGINE
THIS WILL
BE REALLY
HARD FOR
YOU, MOMIJI.



IF YOU LOVE
MAMA TOO...

...WILL YOU
HELP HER?

IF I KEEP
THEM AND
KEEP TRYING,
WITHOUT
RUNNING
AWAY...

EVEN...

...IF I KEEP
TRYING, THEN
SOMEDAY...

...SOME-
DAY I'LL BE
STRONG ENOUGH
THAT THOSE
MEMORIES
CAN'T DEFEAT
ME.

...EVEN IF
THEY'RE
MEMORIES
THAT I'D
RATHER
FORGET.

I
BELIEVE
THAT.

...I WANT...

...TO LIVE
WITH ALL MY
MEMORIES.

EVEN IF
THEY'RE SAD
MEMORIES.

EVEN IF
THEY'RE
MEMORIES
THAT ONLY
HURT ME.

AND...

HE'S BEEN
WATCHING
OVER HER ALL
THIS TIME.
HASN'T HE?

"She's
soooo
cute!"

QUIETLY...

...I THINK...

...HE WAS
PROBABLY
HERE TO SEE
HIS MOTHER.

WHEN I MET
HIM HERE
THE FIRST
TIME...

BUT...

...FROM
FAR
AWAY...

...SO SHE
WOULDN'T
SEE HIM.



IT'S A
SECRET.

.....



YES...

...ME TOO.

?



I
WANT
TO...

...BELIEVE
THAT.

...AS A
MEMORY
THAT'S
OKAY TO
FORGET.

BECAUSE
I WANT TO
THINK...

...THAT
THERE'S
NO SUCH
THING...



BUT...

...THAT
WAS MY
SELFISHNESS.



I WANTED
HER TO KEEP
TRYING.



...DIDN'T
WANT
MAMA TO
FORGET.

THAT'S
WHY...

...THAT'S
WHY I
REALLY
...



I'M GOING WITH YOU.

...AND BELIEVE THAT.

YOU KNOW...
...TO VISIT HER GRAVE.



SO I CAN BE SOMEONE WHO WON'T LET THOSE MEMORIES DEFEAT ME.

...?
?

HEY.



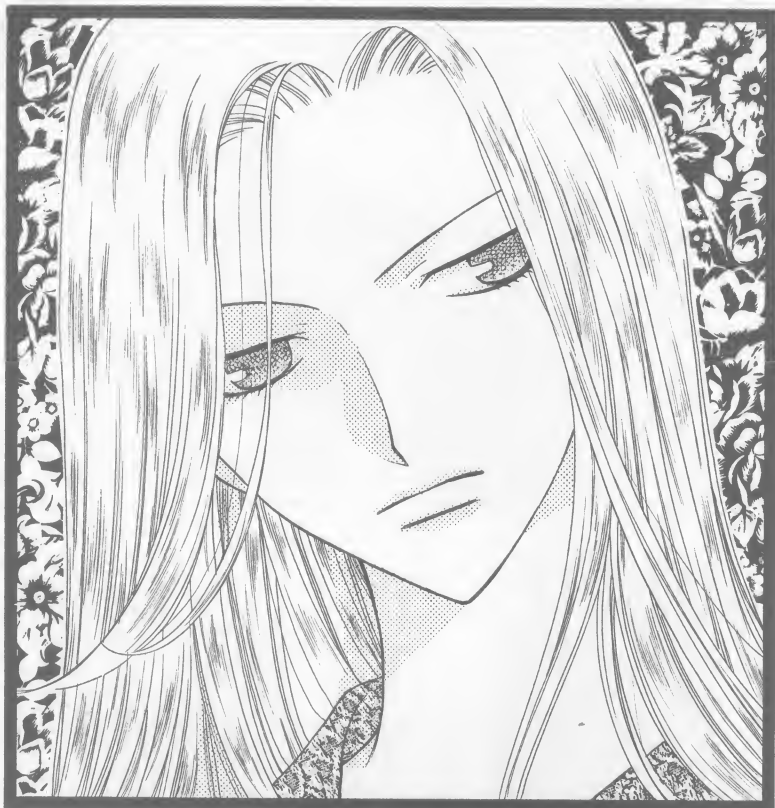
I WANT TO TAKE ANY MEMORY...

...AND HOLD IT IN MY HEART...



I ALSO...

...BELIEVE THAT.



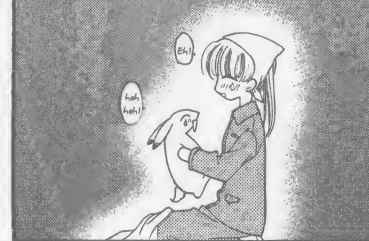
Chapter 24



...AND
WE'LL HAVE
PRECIOUS
MEMORIES.

SOMEDAY...

...WE'LL
OVERCOME
THE PAIN...





ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 6

This is where volume 4 ends!! This one's been really talky!! (But once again, I have no one to blame but myself.) But it's okay! (What is?) A lot of people told me they thought they should have kissed. Sorry, but I didn't want them to, and as the author, it's up to me...



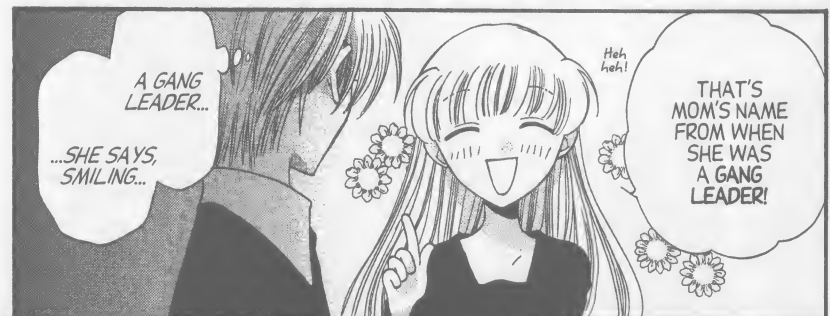
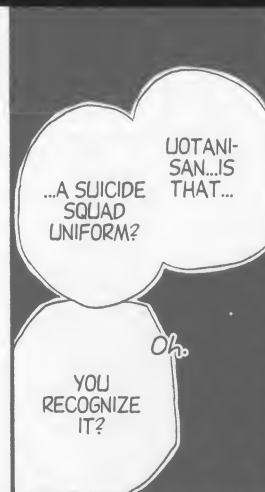
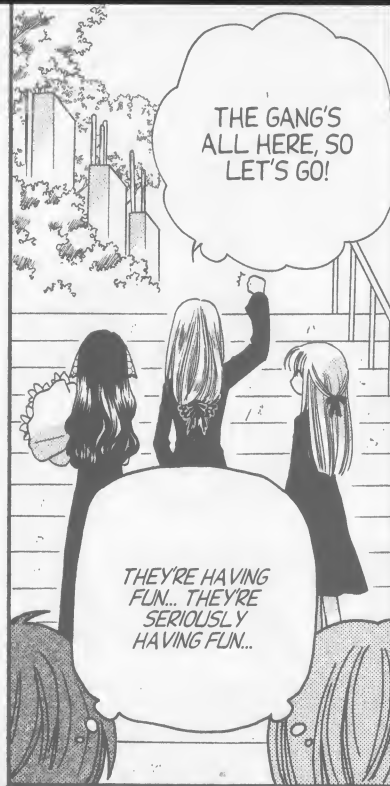
* Sleeve: Fifth Generation Leader of the Suicide Squad

* Lapel: Southern Alliance



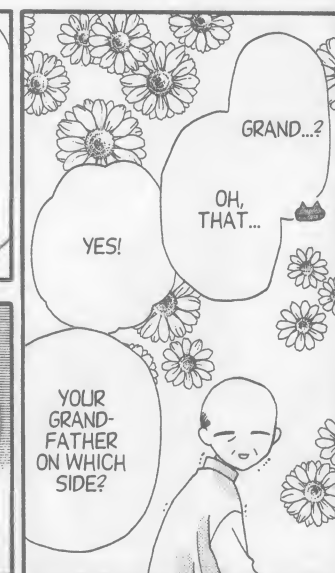
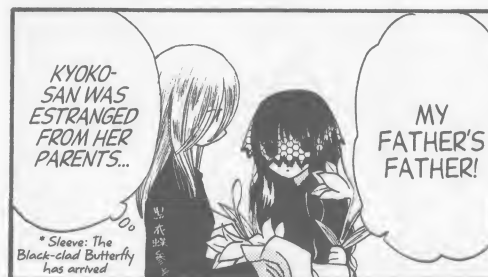


Kashima-mochi (rice cake wrapped in oak leaf)



Fruits Basket 4
Part 6:

I started crying when I saw the opening. I thought, "How very, very sad!" And "Oh, poor Serge. I want to protect him." That's proof that I'm totally hooked! He's like Cloud. (But it's worse for Cloud.) Square really does always have good music. I played Chrono Trigger on Su-Fami (Super Nintendo), so the music brought back a lot of memories. Oh, but I cried. It's so sad! I'm also playing Tokimeki Memorial (a popular romance sim). I'm getting called Takaya-kun. And while I'm doing all this, I'm waiting for Sakura (Taisen) to come out...





NOW...

LIVING IN
THE SAME
HOUSE...

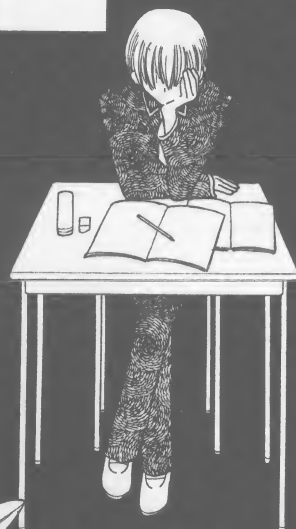
...BEING SO
CLOSE...

YUKI-
KUN...

...LOOK!

BACK THEN,
SHE WAS
SOMEONE
I ONLY
VAGUELY
KNEW
EXISTED...

...JUST
SOME
PERSON
CALLED
"TOHRU
HONDA."



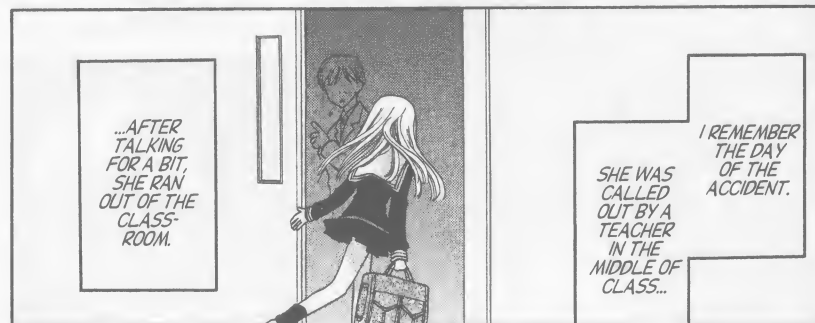
THESE
FLOWERS ARE
WONDERFUL!



...AND
BE SO
BRIGHT?

WHY ISN'T
SHE UNDER
A DARK
SHADOW?

HOW CAN
SHE KEEP
SMILING...



...AFTER
TALKING
FOR A BIT,
SHE RAN
OUT OF THE
CLASS-
ROOM.

I REMEMBER
THE DAY
OF THE
ACCIDENT.

SHE WAS
CALLED
OUT BY A
TEACHER
IN THE
MIDDLE OF
CLASS...



...I WONDERED
VAGUELY...

HER TWO
FRIENDS
FOLLOWED
HER OUT.

FOR A
WHILE,
THE CLASS
WAS IN AN
UPROAR.

DURING
ALL THAT...

...IF MAYBE
ONE OF HER
RELATIVES
GOT IN AN
ACCIDENT.



NO.

IF YOU HELPED, THEY'D LOOK LIKE THEY WERE CURSED.

DO YOU NEED ME TO HELP...?



H-HUH?

THEY WON'T STAND UP RIGHT...

LET ME SEE IT. PRINCE CHARMING, HOLD IT THERE.

OKAY.



...SEE GHOSTS AND STUFF?

YOU...

...THAT IS...

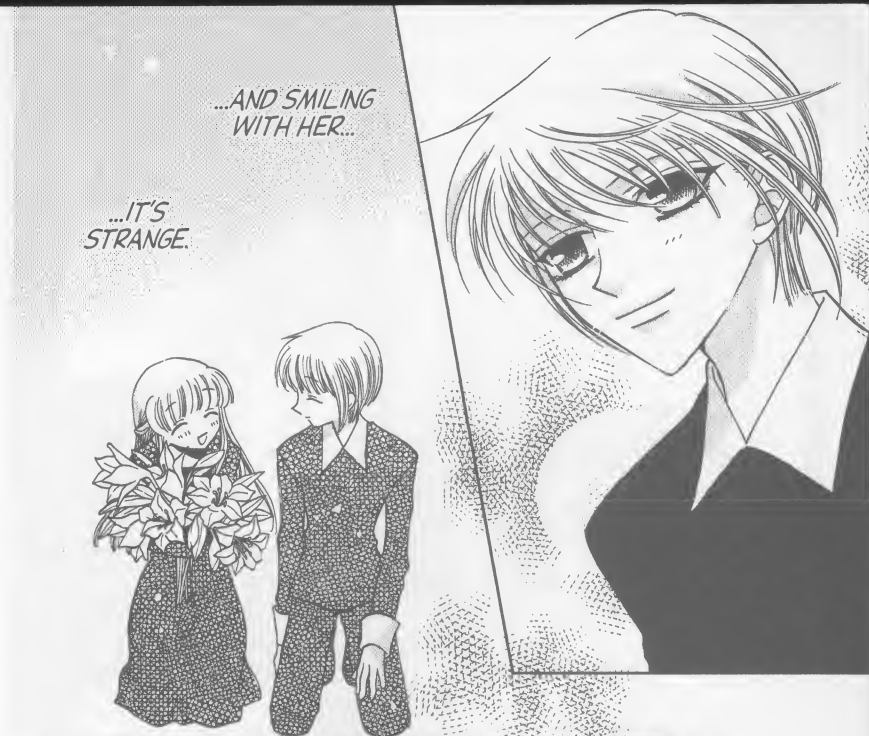
...DO YOU...



...



HANA-JIMA...?



...AND SMILING WITH HER...

...IT'S STRANGE.



IT'S A STRANGE...

...FEELING.



LIVING HUMANS ARE THE STRONGEST...

...BUT THEY ARE VERY WEAK.

THEY'RE DROWNED OUT BY THE STRENGTH OF THE THOUGHTS OF THE LIVING...

THE DEAD DO GIVE OFF WAVES...



...YOUR WAVES ARE ECHOING...

WHY ARE YOU...

...STANDING BEFORE A GRAVE WITH SUCH FEELINGS OF REGRET...?

EVEN NOW, IT'S THE SAME...

EVEN NOW...



BUT YOUR... WAVES...?

HUH?

WAVES AND SPIRITS ARE DIFFERENT... DON'T PUT THEM ON THE SAME LEVEL.

I DON'T HAVE THE SPIRITUAL SENSE...

OF COURSE NOT...



I DIDN'T ASK FOR A FRICKIN' DISSERTATION.

DENPA WAVES ARE LIKE PEOPLE'S FEELINGS...

RATHER THAN HEARING WITH MY EARS, THEY COME DIRECTLY INTO MY BRAIN LIKE WAVES...



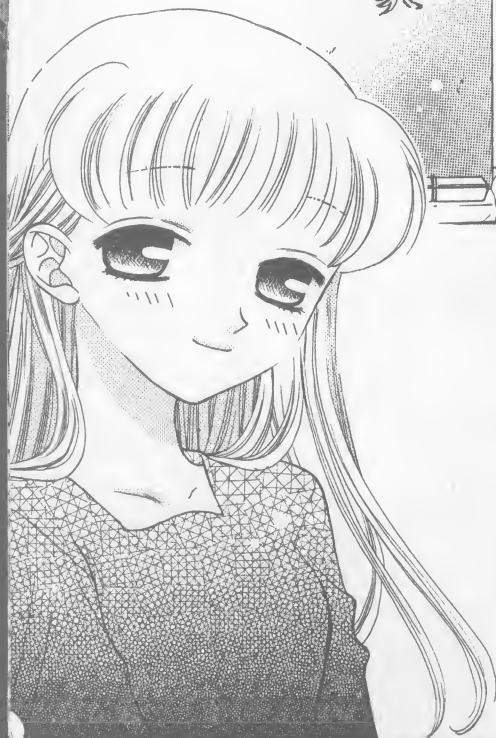
NO REASON.

I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT.

WHY DO YOU ASK...?



本田家



...HER
RED TAIL-
LIGHTS,
SOARING
THROUGH
THE NIGHT.

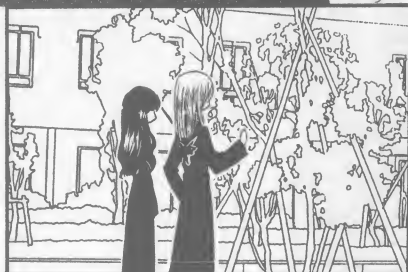
WHEN
KYOKO-SAN
RODE HER
BIKE, IT
WAS LIKE A
BUTTERFLY
FLYING...

I DON'T
GET IT.

THIS IS
DELICIOUS...

YOU HAVE NO
IMAGINATION!

WHAT?!



...I'M
FINE.

KYO-KUN!
WHAT
WOULD
YOU LIKE?

OKAY!

*She
packed a
picnic?*

MOST
PEOPLE
WOULDN'T
DO THIS...

ANYWAY,
SIT DOWN,
KYON. YOU'RE
MAKING ME
UNCOMFORTABLE.

FINE!
JUST
SHUT
UP...



A
LEGEND?

LIKE I
SAID, THE
LEGEND OF
THE RED
BUTTER-
FLY.

SHE WAS A
LEGEND BEFORE
WE MET HER,
THOUGH, AND I'D
ALWAYS WANTED
TO BE LIKE HER.

SHE WAS
FRIENDS
WITH US.

WERE
YOU AND
HANAJIMA-
SAN GOOD
FRIENDS WITH
HONDA-SAN'S
MOTHER?





SO...YOU
WERE HALF-
SERIOUS?

WELL, I
WAS HALF-
JOKING.

EVERYONE
HAS SOME
THOUGHTS
LIKE THAT...

AS LONG
AS THEY
HAVE THOSE
THOUGHTS,
THERE MAY
NOT BE ROOM
FOR LOVE.

...BUT WITH
THOSE TWO,
IT'S MUCH
WORSE THAN
USUAL.



YEAH,
BUT SO'S
TOHRU.

...THEY
BOTH SEEM
EXTREMELY
DENSE IN
THAT ARENA.

AND IF I
MAY SAY
SO...



BUT...

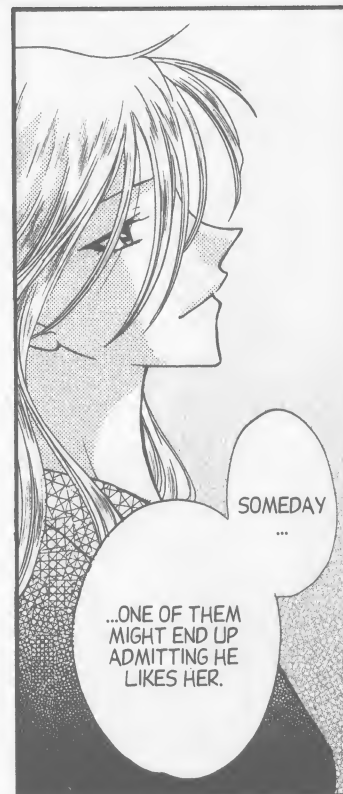
WELL...



YUKI SOHMA
AND KYO
SOHMA'S
HEARTS...

...ARE STILL
RULED BY
CHAOS...OR
CONFUSION.
I CAN'T REALLY
PUT MY FINGER
ON IT...

...BUT A DARK
SHADOW
HAS FALLEN
OVER THEIR
THOUGHTS...



SOMEDAY
...

...ONE OF THEM
MIGHT END UP
ADMITTING HE
LIKES HER.



YOU
KNOW,
SOMEHOW
...

...WHEN
THOSE
THREE ARE
TOGETHER
...

...IT'S BEEN
A LOT MORE
RELAXED
LATELY.



AND IT
ALMOST
SEEMS LIKE
KYON'S
TRYING TO
TAKE CARE
OF TOHRU.

PRINCE
CHARMING
DOESN'T ACT
LIKE HE HAS
A STICK UP
HIS ASS ALL
THE TIME,
YOU KNOW?



WHEN
DID YOU
BECOME THE
MOTHER-IN-
LAW?

OH MY,
I WOULD
HATE
THAT.

I WON'T
APPROVE OF
A ROMANTIC
ASSOCIATION
WITH TOHRU-
KUN SO
EASILY...

SO PLEASE,
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT ME.

MOM...

BECAUSE
OF THE
PEOPLE
IN THIS
HOUSE...

...JUST KEEP
WATCHING
OVER ME.

...EVERY DAY
IS FUN.

WE HAD A
FUN VISIT
TODAY...

I'M GLAD
I COULD
INTRODUCE
YUKI-KUN
AND KYO-KUN
TO MOM.

MOM...

THOSE TWO
ALWAYS TAKE
CARE OF ME.

SOMEDAY,
I HOPE YOU
CAN MEET
SHIGURE-
SAN, TOO.

OH, NO...

WHEN I
THINK OF
TOHRU-KUN
GOING OFF
TO BE A
BRIDE...

...IT
MAKES
ME CRY.

NOW YOU'RE
REALLY
JUMPING TO
CONCLUSIONS.

...THERE
ARE
TIMES
WHEN...

...WITHOUT
KNOWING WHY,
BEFORE YOU
KNOW IT...

...A PERSON
"BLOOMS."

A
a
a
h
:

A NICE CUP OF
TEA REALLY
HITS THE SPOT
AFTER A LONG
DAY LIKE
TODAY.

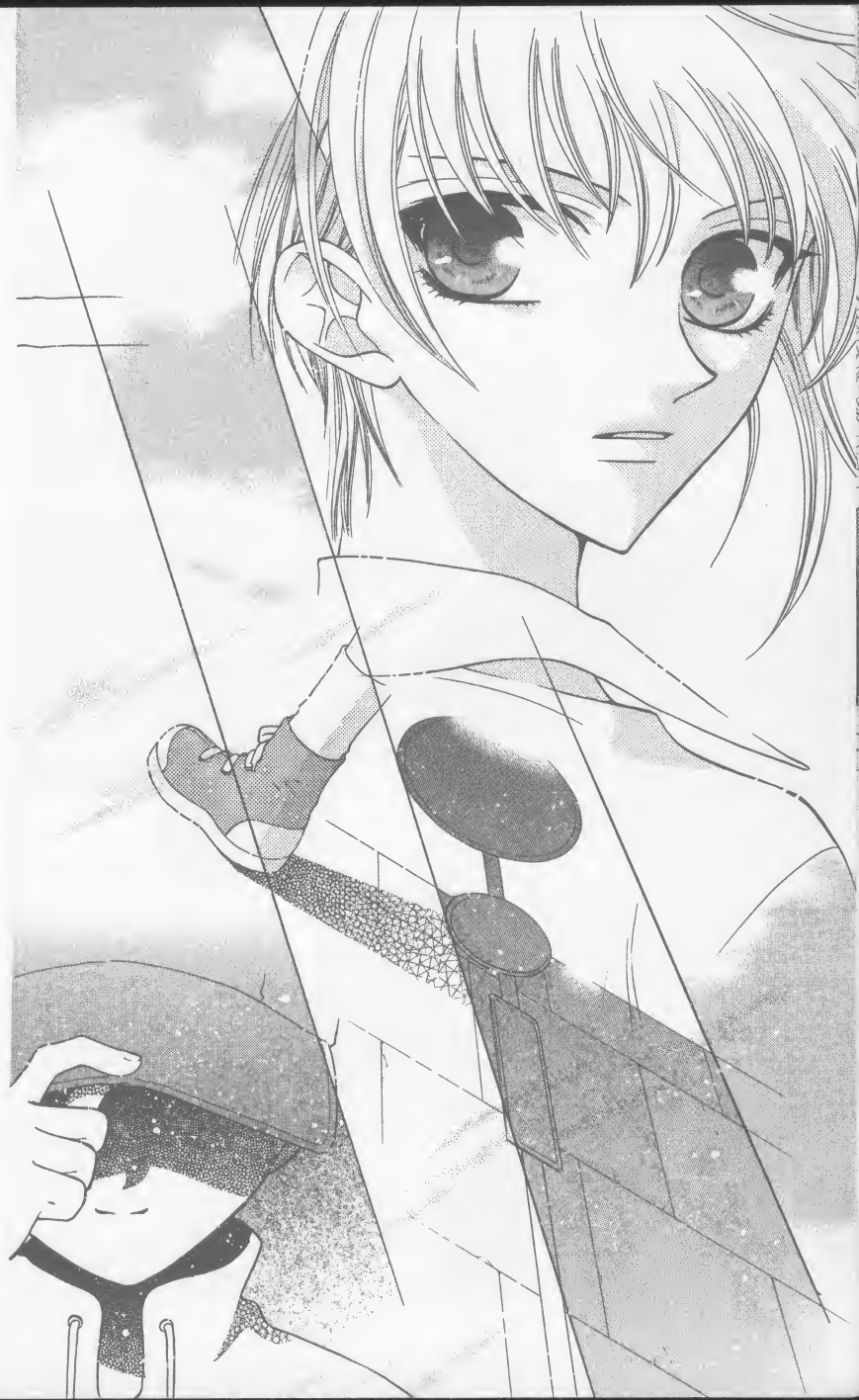




WHAT
SHOULD I
CALL...



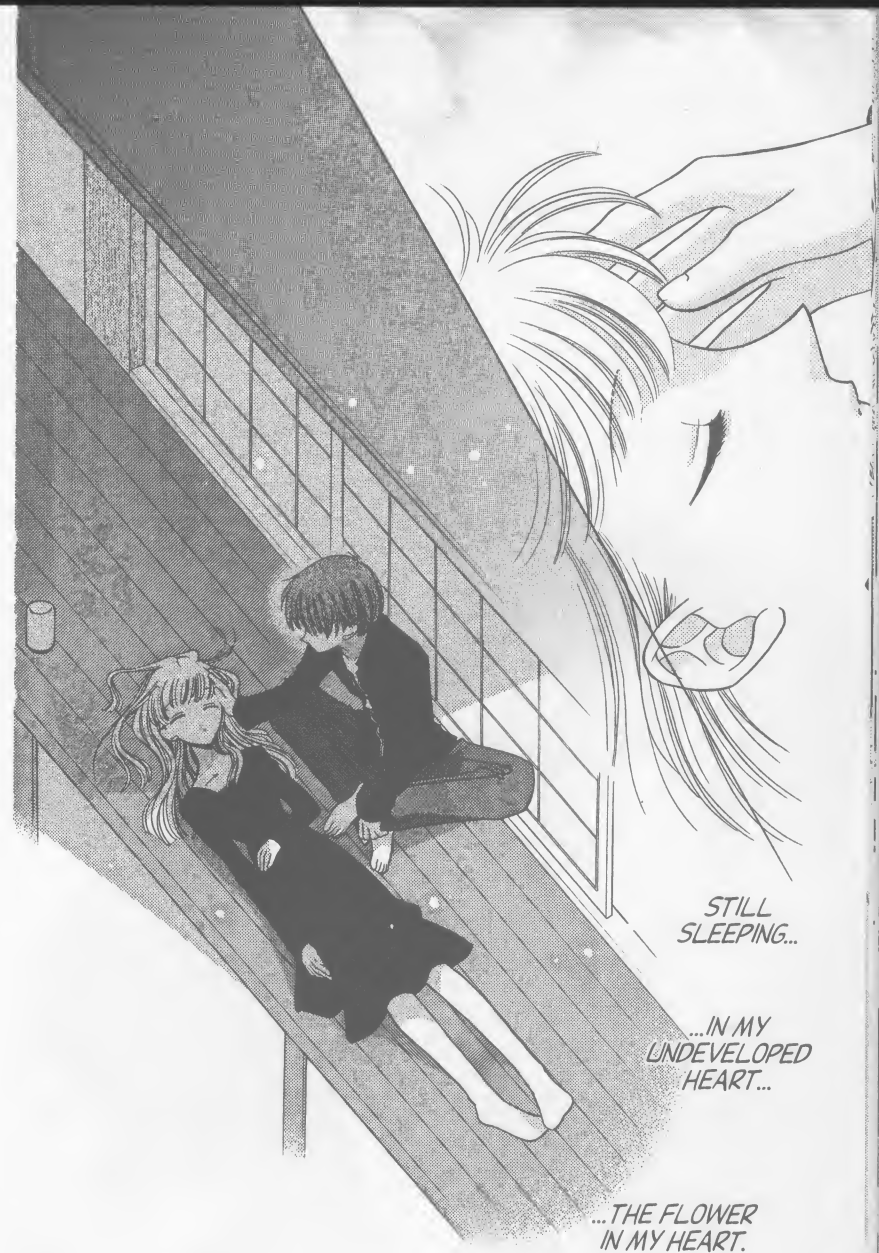
...THIS
FEELING?



BONUS CHAPTER



YOU'RE COMPLETELY WRONG, SHIGURE-SAN!



...AND DISAPPOINTMENT!

I'M TIRED
OF THIS.

WELL, IT WILL BE...AND IT WON'T BE!

HEY,
AYAME, I'M
TELLING
YOU THIS
NOW--

IT DOESN'T
MATTER
WHAT IT'S
ABOUT...

I WON'T
BE IN IT.

Are you
listening?

...THE
IMPORTANT
THING IS THAT I
WILL BE IN IT.

WASABI

YOU
MUSTN'T
BE SO
LAZY...

YOU'LL
JUST HAVE TO
LISTEN AND
FIND OUT WHAT
IT'S ABOUT.



I AM NOT
AN IDIOT!

BUT
YOU'RE
AN IDIOT.

**THE CAST OF FRUITS BASKET ON
A SUMMER DAY...**



**Nageshi
soumen!**

**...WILL FORCE A PATH TO THE NOODLE
FLUME OF LOVE AND COURAGE..**

* Nageshi Soumen: Mamiji means to say "Nageshi soumen." This is a type of noodle that is served in a bamboo flume. As the noodles flow down the flume, diners pick them out with chopsticks.

Next time in...



Enter the Tiger...

The Sohma household takes to the lake for a vacation at their summer-house. However, the peaceful silence is deafening, as Yuki and Kyo are once again not on speaking terms. Will Tohru's klutzy kindness get the dueling duo back to their old cat-and-mouse antics once again?

Fruits Basket Volume 5
Available October 2004



The FruitsBasket special CD set is not for sale in bookstores, music stores, or fruit stores.

Let's read the ordering directions carefully...

We interrupt this manga with an important announcement: As of September, 1999, this CD set is no longer available at all. We apologize for the inconvenience.

**Bonus Chapter/
The End**





Character sketches for *Geneimusou*

12) Do you have a favorite game to recommend?

I like so many that it's hard to name just one. I'd recommend the *Sakura Taisen* series—that's really fun.

13) What do you think makes a good game?

I like it when games do stuff manga can't. Just like how there's stuff you can only do in manga, there are things you can only do in video games. I think games where you really feel it's a "game" are best.

14) Are there any game characters you really like?

I really love cute and strong girls with a bit of a dark side. I have more trouble finding male characters I like.

15) Do you work on your webpage "Chotto Ippuku" (A Short Break) by yourself?

Yes, I do it myself. That's why it's never updated...

[editor's note: Her website is no longer active.]

16) What was the hardest part about making a webpage?

Hmm... Well, it was tough when I first started because I had nobody I could discuss things with. Those were rough times, but now I have a lot of friends who can help me out.

Interview with Takaya-sensei

Part 2

About Takaya-sensei's Hobbies

9) What kind of music and musical artists do you like?

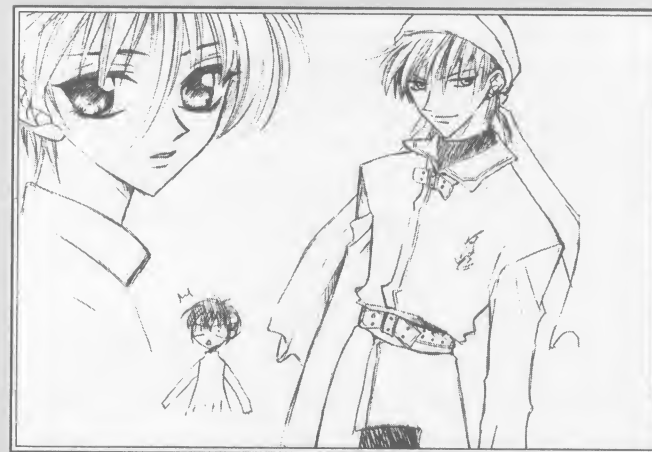
Lately I've been listening to a lot of video game music. Songs, too. I like Nematsu-san and Hikaruda-san's music. I like how the video game music perfectly matches the world in the game. That's wonderful, but when I listen to the battle music it makes me want to fight, so sometimes I do and that gets me in trouble (ha ha!).

10) What movies and TV shows do you like?

These are old movies but...*Field of Dreams* and *Laputa: Castle in the Sky*. I don't watch much TV. Sometimes I think I should watch, but...It just gets in the way, like when I need to be working on my manga.

11) You often talk about video games in your freetalks. What type of games do you like?

I pretty much like any type of game, but I'm never very good at action ones.



Character sketches for
Tsubasa o Matsumono

Year of the Dog: Letting the Dogs Out



Like Shigure, other Dogs are gifted with the ability to see people for who they really are. As such, Dogs make for excellent advice-givers, as they can so easily see another's shortcomings and quickly point them out in a sensitive, objective and non-hurtful way.

Though Dogs are often cold emotionally and seem distant when in a crowd, they are actually very warm-hearted and love to make friends. Interestingly enough, friendships are often long-lasting, because Dogs always love to listen to others and the friends can never seem to get enough of a Dog's keen advice. Fittingly, a relationship with a Dog is much like the bond between a canine and its master—monogamous and loyal to the end.

Celebrity Dogs:

Alec Baldwin
Kirsten Dunst
Jennifer Lopez
Carrie Anne Moss
Uma Thurman
Snoopy

Dog

Years*: 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018, 2030

Positive Qualities: Honest, faithful, generous, studious, energetic

Negative Qualities: Quiet, cynical, stubborn, eccentric, pessimistic

Suitable Jobs: Writer, teacher, activist, politician, secret agent

Compatible With: Horse, Snake, Monkey, Boar

Must Avoid: Rooster, Ox, Sheep

Ruling Hours: 7 PM to 9 PM

Season: Fall

Ruling Month: October

Sign Direction: West-Northwest

Fixed Element: Metal

Corresponding Western Sign: Libra

Possessing the best traits humanity has to offer, Dogs are natural-born leaders and inspire confidence in others. They seldom lose their temper when antagonized, but when they do, it is a surefire way to clear the air around them. These flare-ups can turn hardened rivals into allies as the harsh words being said are never used to air out the other person's dirty laundry or stab them in the back; it is simply a way toward a meeting of minds. Compromise also factors heavily into the Dogs' everyday life and personal dealings with people, as it often leads to much-needed respect and success in their chosen career. Though money is of little value to Dogs, they are never at a loss for finding ways to rake it in when they truly need it.

* Note: If you were born in January or early February, then chances are you are probably the animal of the preceding year. The only way to know for certain is to know on which day Chinese New Year's was held. Example: 1982 actually began on January 25, so anyone born from January 1 to January 24 is actually a Rooster.



About Fruits Basket

17) When and how did you come up with *Fruits Basket*?

I was slowly working on it in my mind as I was finishing up my last series, *Tsubasa wo motsu mono* (*Those with Wings*). But all the final details didn't come together until after "*Boku ga utauto anata ga warau kara*," (*Because When I Sing You Smile*) a one-shot I did before *Furuba* started. I kept thinking there wasn't enough time, but it all came to me inside my head. Tohru just appeared and said "Hello!" The rest came together pretty easily after that.

18) Were there any other title possibilities besides *Fruits Basket*?

There kind of were... Though I'm happy I chose *Fruits Basket*, it's easy to say and remember.

19) Why did you choose the Zodiac animals as a motif?

Basically, I like them a lot and assumed everyone else would, too. Japanese culture is captivating, right?

20) What's the most important thing when creating the plot or doing the rough sketches?

The pacing and dialog, and of course whether it's fun to read. You can't forget what's at the heart of making a reader laugh or cry.

21) In the works you do, the story and tone are often different, but they seem to share an underlying theme. What's your theme?

I'm happy to hear that, thank you very much. As long as I'm creating it, I don't think the underlying theme will ever change. (Actually, if it changed, then there would be no point...) But I don't think the theme needs to be put into words. It's something that the reader experiences for themselves. At least, that's my company line, but sometimes I think I'd like to be able to express it in words. (ha ha!)

Read the rest of the interview with Takaya-sensei in Volume 5!

Add more "Fruits" to your Basket!

Collect them all!



Volume 1

Tohru Honda was an orphan with no place to go until the mysterious Sohma family offered her a place to call home. Now her ordinary high school life is turned upside-down as she's introduced to the Sohma's world of magical curses and family secrets. Discover for yourself the Secret of the Zodiac in the first volume of *Fruits Basket*!

Volume 2

Ever since Tohru Honda discovered the Zodiac secret of the Sohma clan, her eyes have been opened to a world of magic and wonder. But with such a great secret comes great responsibility. When her best friends Hana-chan and Uo-chan come to the Sohma house for a sleepover, Tohru has her work cut out for her keeping the "Cat" in the bag and the "Dog" on a leash.



Volume 3

It's Valentine's Day and you know what that means--lots of chocolates for the cutest boys at school! In this case, it's a pretty close tie between hot-headed Kyo Sohma and Yuki "prince charming" Sohma. Of course the kind-hearted Tohru, guest of the Sohma family, has chocolates for everyone! But when White Day comes around, what will the Sohma family give back? How about a trip to the family hot springs?! Also, a new member of the Zodiac shows up at school to lay the "MOO"ves on Kyo.



SOUND EFFECT INDEX

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE SOUND EFFECTS USED IN FRUITS BASKET. EACH SOUND IS LABELED BY PAGE AND PANEL NUMBER, SEPARATED BY A PERIOD. THE FIRST DESCRIPTION IS THE PHONETIC READING OF THE JAPANESE, AND IS FOLLOWED BY THE EQUIVALENT ENGLISH SOUND OR A DESCRIPTION.

79.3	patan: shut	16.4	pon: pat
81.3	bon: poof	16.5	zuoooo: (creepy aura)
81.5	hira: flutter	17.3	pekka: perky
81.6	shuu: rustle	19.2	goh: slam
81.7	sura: slide	24.1	bah: block
86.1	ban x 2: slap	28.3	gyoh: shock
86.4	guii: grab	28.5	gah: grab
95.2a	ha!: gasp	29.2	bun x 3: shake
95.2b	jii: stare	31.1	kira x 4: sparkle
96.2	zuun: slump	32.1	kira x 3: sparkle
99.2	zuri: slide	33.4	zuru x 3: drag
100.1	don doka gashan: crash bang pow	33.5	patan: shut
103.2	gyuu: squeeze		
103.3	gaba: stumble		
112.5	gashii: grab		
117.5	ban!: slam		
118.1	zudoon: (fanfare)		
119.3	zuru x 3: drag		
121.5	pori x 2: scratch		
123.1	suku: stand		
124.5	gutari: confused		
129.1	gashi x 2: scrub		
129.2	gashi x 3: scrub		
140.5	bata x 4: pitter patter		
144.3	pal: shine		
159.4	bon: poof		
161.3	dan x 2: clack		
186.4	wasa x 3: rub		
186.5	bikuu: twitch		
187.1	kuu: snore		
188.2	patan: shut		
189.6	saa: rustle		
196.1	ta ta ka x 3: dash		
		33.6	kii: creak
		35.2	goh: slam
		35.4	pachi: (wake up)
		35.5	mukuri: rise
		36.1	gakkuu: slump
		36.2	kiiin koon: (school bells)
		75.1	ha!: gasp
		75.5	zah: rush
		77.1	su: shuffle
		77.2	don: ta-da!
		77.5	gui: squeeze

KIRA KIRA

THE "SOUND" OF SPARKLING, USED FOR LITERAL SPARKLING AND FOR GLAMOR SHOTS. IN SHOUJO MANGA, SPARKLES ARE A COMMON ACCESSORY TO BISHOUNEN--ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'RE SHOWN DRESSED IN A GIRLS' UNIFORM LIKE YUKI!